FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 NOVEMBER 1984

Libyan Assassination Plot

A Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA on 18 November denied Egyptian claims that Libya is plotting to assassinate several Western and Arab leaders, asserting that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's allegations are intended to sabotage Libya's "distinguished" relations with the countries concerned. However, the statement did not mention 'Abd al-hamid al-Bakkush, the former Libyan prime minister residing in Egypt whose "execution" by a "revolutionary force" was announced by Tripoli radio on 16 November but who subsequently confirmed in a MENA interview that he had cooperated with the Egyptian security authorities to trick the Libyans into believing their assassination attempt had succeeded. Giving details of the abortive Libyan plot at a news conference reported by MENA, Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Rushdi said that fake photographs of Al-Bakkush's death had duped Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi into believing that the operation had succeeded. In reality, Egyptian security forces monitored and apprehended the terrorist group, which was hired by the Libyan People's Bureau chief in Malta to carry out the operation in return for a large sum of money. Noting that Al-Qadhdhafi went to Malta after learning that the attempt had failed, Rushdi speculated that the Libyan leader went there to punish his intelligence men.

President Mubarak also commented on the Al-Bakkush affair in remarks reported by MENA, stating that Libya gave $106,000 to the terrorist group, which consisted of Maltese and British nationals. As for other Libyan plots, Mubarak accused the Libyans of planning the assassination of the British prime minister, the French president, the FRG chancellor, the king of Saudi Arabia, the president of the UAE, and the amir of Kuwait. Although Mubarak denied that Egypt has increased its military preparedness along the border with Libya because of these developments, informed sources in Cairo cited by AFP asserted that Egyptian aircraft have stepped up their patrols in the border area.

Chad Withdrawal

French President Francois Mitterrand told a press conference on 16 November, the day after his surprise meeting on Crete with Libya's Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, that several hundred Libyan soldiers remain in Chad despite the Franco-Libyan withdrawal agreement, "less than certain foreign reports maintain," but more than there should be, AFP reported. Mitterrand went on to say that Al-Qadhdhafi had assured him that "everything had been ordered for a full evacuation," the agency added, noting that Mitterrand also declared that France could try to normalize relations with Libya "without renouncing its other friendships." On the same issue, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson charged that Al-Qadhdhafi "has not kept his word," according to Paris radio. Meanwhile, the French Defense Ministry announced that Defense Minister Charles Hernu and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Jeannou Lacaze left for Ndjamena on 18 November, AFP disclosed. Moreover, on the same day the French Air Force resumed reconnaissance flights over Chad, the agency added.

As for libyan comment on Mitterrand's remarks, JANA asserted that in his press conference he "denied the U.S. and Western imperialist claims" about a Libyan military presence in Chad.

Jordan Arms Sources

Jordan has "closed the door" on arms deals with the United States because the conditions proposed are unacceptable, and it will turn to Western Europe, the Soviet Union, "and any other source that can supply us with our weapons needs," King Husayn said in an *AL-AHRAM* interview carried by *AL-RA'Y* on 16 November. He added that arms will be a topic for talks during his upcoming visit to the Soviet Union, for which no date has yet been fixed. However, Israeli officials in Washington are concerned about new arms deals between the United States and Jordan that will be submitted to Congress in a few weeks, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the officials were reacting to a *NEW YORK TIMES* list of Jordan's arms requests.

PLO

Fatah will withdraw from the PLO if the PNC fails to achieve a quorum for its forthcoming meeting in Amman, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated in remarks reported by the *JORDAN TIMES* on 19 November. Khalaf's statement indicated confidence that Fatah will obtain the necessary quorum for the PNC meeting, according to Palestinian observers cited by the paper.

Israel

Budget Cut — The Cabinet has established a ministerial committee to decide how to achieve the finance minister's goal of a $550 million budget cut, Jerusalem radio reported.

Yacht Incident — Egyptian soldiers fired at an Israeli yacht seeking shelter from stormy seas in an Egyptian coastal inlet north of Ra's Muhammad on 14 November, ITIM reported.

Lebanon

Previewing the next round of Israeli-Lebanese talks at Al-Naqurah, Jerusalem radio said the Israelis will again reject the Lebanese proposals, adding that if Lebanon persists in making demands that constitute attempts to play for time, Israel will consider taking unilateral steps in southern Lebanon. Earlier, after his release and deportation from the south by the Israelis on 16 November, Amal Movement official Mahmud Faqih stated that he intends to return to the south to continue the struggle against the Israelis, Beirut radio reported. Noting

Faqih's release, Jerusalem television asserted that Faqih was detained "by mistake."

As for the Lebanese Government's plans to deploy its Army along the coastal road south of the capital, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio on 17 November that he hopes the "implementation process" will begin in about 1 week. Meanwhile, the Druze militia have deployed T-55 tanks and heavy mortars in the Al-Kharrub area, according to Jerusalem radio.

Syria

Interviewed by Paris radio a week prior to French President Mitterrand's first visit to Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed that although Rif'at al-Asad is abroad he remains vice president "and no one in Syria can say the contrary." As for the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon, Al-Asad declared that the Israelis should withdraw unconditionally and that the Syrians will leave when the Lebanese Government "recovers its health" and requests it. Asked whether Syrian troops will occupy former IDF positions if the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon, Al-Asad said the location of the Syrian presence in Lebanon stems from the decision of the Lebanese Government.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will pay a visit of "several days" to the United States during which he will meet with President Ronald Reagan on 26 November, INA announced.

Iran

During talks with President 'Ali Khamene'i on 17 November, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed the "complete coordination between Syria and Iran" to confront the Iraqi regime and the need for strategic cooperation among Muslim countries against the Zionist regime, IRNA reported.

GCC Summit

The Kuwaiti Prime Minister will apprise Iran of the GCC initiative for ending the Gulf war on a visit to Tehran immediately after the convocation of the GCC summit on 27 November, *AL-SIYASAH* disclosed on 15 November, citing diplomatic sources in Baghdad. As for military matters, the GCC secretary general said in remarks reported by KUNA that the summit will stress strengthening cooperation and boosting military potential, but it is premature to speak of full unification.

Afghanistan

Speaking for the first time on the prospects of a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan said the withdrawal could begin as soon as an agreement banning foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs is signed by its southern neighbors, particularly Pakistan, according to AFP.

Maghreb

Soviet Diplomacy — USSR Minister of Culture Petr Demichev concluded his "official friendly visit" to Algeria, during which he met with Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Ibrahimini and other Algerian officials, with the signing of a protocol on cultural cooperation, TASS reported.

Western Sahara — The Saharan People's Liberation Army claimed that 90 Moroccan soldiers were killed from 7 to 12 November in the "Great Maghreb Offensive," Algiers radio reported.

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Further Reportage on Convocation of PNC

PLO 'Source' Issues Statement

JN161744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] A responsible PLO information source yesterday stated the following: Various media organs have talked about the dialogue sessions currently being held in Tunis between a Democratic Alliance delegation and a Fatah delegation. The organs also talked about other dialogues currently being held among the various Palestinian forces.

The PLO is interested in affirming that the current dialogues among the Palestinian revolution factions are a normal occurrence prior to the convocation of the PNC. However, these dialogues have no relation to the Executive Committee's decision to convene the PNC or the petitions signed and submitted by more than 151 PNC members which call for convening the council on the specified date and venue — 22 November in Amman. This is in accordance with Article 8 of the PLO's principal ordinance. At the same time, we wish our brothers in the revolution factions, in the name of our militant Palestinian people, success in achieving positive results in their current dialogues.

Democratic Alliance Issues Call

JN161936 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] A meeting was held today among leaders of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the ALF, and the Palestinian Communist Party. The meeting decided to call on Palestinian factions to participate in the PLO Executive Committee meeting scheduled to be held in Tunis tomorrow with the aim of stopping the separate unilateral preparations to hold the PNC in Amman. It also called for taking the necessary measures to convene the PLO Central Council as soon as possible, begin a comprehensive dialogue, and form a preparatory committee that would pave the way for holding the PNC's 17th session. The three Palestinian groups called on all PLO Executive Committee members to participate in the Tunis meeting tomorrow to discuss the listed issues.

Egypt's Al-Baz Meets 'Arafat

JN171528 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (INA) — It has been learned here that 'Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's adviser, arrived in Tunis today on a surprise visit. Arab diplomatic sources told the INA correspondent that Al-Baz will meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to discuss several important matters.

'Arafat on USSR-Syria, PNC

NC181056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has accused Syria of creating obstacles to thwart the convocation of the PNC. He added that Syria is today trying to accomplish what Sharon failed to accomplish militarily; they are now trying to accomplish politically by obstructing the holding of the PNC meeting. In an exclusive interview with the weekly magazine *ROSE AL-YUSUF*, which will appear in tomorrow's edition, 'Arafat said that is why a dialogue was conducted over a period of 10 months in an attempt to rectify Palestinian-Syrian relations. A number of Arab brothers representing Algeria, the PDRY, Tunisia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the YAR participated in this dialogue. Also participating were some friends like the USSR and the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandhi in her capacity as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. But all efforts yielded negative results.

Yasir 'Arafat announced that the PNC will meet in Amman on 22 November, adding that he who considers himself a Palestinian or feels that he a Palestinian should attend the meeting. He also said that the PNC will discuss, among other things, what had happened in Tripoli and the Camp Murphy [referring to Richard Murphy] agreement which guarantees that PLO fighters will not return to southern Lebanon and guarantees security of the northern borders of occupied Palestine — presently Israel.

Touching on the Soviet stand, Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the Soviet Union has in all its media sources declared its support for Palestinian legitimacy and PLO unity. He said that the Soviet Union sent an envoy representing the Politburo to Damascus following the Tripoli events in a bid to rectify the situation. The Soviet Union once again tried when Al-Asad visited Moscow, but they differed with him on four points. These are:

1. Syria's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war;
2. Syria's stand on the PLO;
3. The Soviet stand on the restoration of relations between Egypt and Jordan and Syria's dissatisfaction over this step;
4. Murphy's agreement with Al-Asad on Lebanon.

On the stand of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, Yasir 'Arafat asserted that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and Gaza Strip are giving every means of support to the PLO. To a question about the establishment of a federal government between the Palestinians and Jordan, Yasir 'Arafat said a decision was adopted at the last PNC meeting in Algiers to establish distinguished relations between Jordan and the Palestinians and to set up a confederal government. On the restoration of relations between Jordan and Egypt, 'Arafat said that it was a step on the right road.

USSR Affirms Support for 'Arafat

GF181800 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Palestinian sources reported that the USSR has reiterated support for the leadership of the PLO under Brother Abu

'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The sources said that the Soviet ambassador in Tunis conveyed this support to Brother Abu 'Ammar during a meeting between them. The Palestinian sources added that Brother Abu 'Ammar informed the Soviet ambassador about the current preparations to hold the 17th session of the PNC in Amman on 22 November.

West Bank, Gaza Backs 'Arafat

JN171800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The PNC members residing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, who number 180, have authorized Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the PLO leadership to make any decision in the interest of the Palestinian people should the Zionist occupation authorities insist on preventing them from participating in the 17th PNC session in Amman on 22 November.

Executive Committee Meets 17 Nov

JN180826 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis — The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Tunis last night under its Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to discuss issues related to the PNC's 17th session to be held in Amman on 22 November. The meeting was attended by Mahmud 'Abbas, Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Jamal al-Surani, Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, Hamid Abu Sittah, and Hanna Nasir. An authoritative Palestinian source said that [ALF leader] 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad is expected to arrive for the meeting later.

The Democratic Alliance representatives in the dialogue meetings with Fatah had proposed an emergency Executive Committee meeting before the PNC meeting. Fatah representatives immediately agreed and 'Arafat issued invitations for the committee members to attend the meeting.

'Arafat on Executive Committee Meeting

GF182016 Doha QNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Tunis, 18 Nov 84 (QNA) — The PLO Executive Committee has renewed its previous stand on the convening of the PNC in Amman on 22 November while Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committeee, announced that he had exhausted all efforts to provide an opportunity for a dialogue with the Palestinian factions based in Damascus.

The QNA correspondent in Tunis has learned that Yasir 'Arafat has decided to regard the meeting which the PLO Executive Committee held in Tunis on 17 November and which was presided over by him as an unofficial meeting despite the fact that a quorum had been obtained by the attendance of 9 members out of 15.

During the meeting, which was mostly devoted to discussion of the positions of all Palestinian institutions, factions, and dignitaries regarding the convening of the PNC, Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee meeting which he had called for was the meeting which was proposed by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and some other personalities in response to what has been called a last-minute dialogue.

A Palestinian source said that by this invitation, Yasir 'Arafat wanted to prove that the other parties were unable to commit themselves to anything relating to the future of the PLO, and that, by virtue of his position, he is obliged to take decisive action in the Palestinian arena and to convene the PNC as scheduled in order to form a new Executive Committee which will have the responsibility of rebuilding the PLO institutions.

DFLP on Executive Committee Meeting

JN171746 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source in Amman told us today that Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and PLO Executive Committee member, said in a statement that it was decided to cancel the PLO Executive Committee meeting after the National Alliance [as heard] and the PFLP refused to attend.

The DFLP had called for a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and was backed in its call by the Palestinian Democratic Alliance parties with the exception of the PFLP. This meeting was to discuss the question of reactivating Palestinian institutions as well as issues dealing with the PNC.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said the parties which had boycotted the PLO Executive Committee meeting are responsible for not grasping this last opportunity to deal with the current crisis. He denounced the policy of obstruction these parties are resorting to and at the same time stressed the rejection of the unilateral attempts to convene the PNC. He stressed that the DFLP and the Democratic Alliance parties will continue their struggle to achieve the PLO's unity and independence, rejecting obstruction policies and unilateral attempts. The same Palestinian source added that the DFLP will boycott the PNC meeting in Amman on 22 November.

Al-Wazir on PNC, U.S. Pressure

JN172012 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] At a news conference in Amman this evening, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] said that the decision to convene the PNC in Amman was made after information was received that Syria intends to establish a new PLO in Damascus. Abu Jihad added that the United States tried to put pressure on Jordan not to host the PNC in Amman before the end of 1985.

Al-Wazir, Al-Za'nun Meet Press

JN172143 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Amman — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and Salim al-Za'nun, deputy PNC speaker, have stressed that the PNC will convene in Amman next Thursday. Al-Wazir said the PLO has taken all necessary steps to hold the PNC in Amman because the Jordanian capital is the closest Arab capital to the Palestinian people and land. This statement came when Al-Wazir and Al-Za'nun answered a question by a PETRA correspondent at a press conference held at the PLO Executive Committee's headquarters in Amman today in the presence of local, Arab, and international correspondents of radio and television stations.

Al-Wazir affirmed that kinfolk in the occupied territories support convening the PNC in Amman. He said West Bank personalities held a popular conference at B'ir Zayt University today attended by 5,000 Palestinians who voiced support for convening the PNC in Amman. He said that all Palestinian groupings in the Arab states and abroad have announced their support for the PNC in Amman.

Al-Wazir criticized the U.S. stand toward convening the PNC. He said that the United States is exerting pressure to prevent the convocation of the PNC. He said: By doing so, the United States' stand is in harmony with the stands of Israel and other parties to implement a conspiracy that is being prepared against the PLO.

Deputy PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun said: Several Arab and world personalities have asked the PLO's offices around the world to participate in the PNC meetings as observers. He said that this proves the extent of world interest in convening of the PNC in Amman, especially after the Lebanese incidents and the U.S. pressure aimed at preventing the convocation of the PNC. He said that the convocation of the PNC necessitates the attendance of 251 members to constitute a quorum. He added: If the quorum is not completed, the PNC meeting will turn into a preparatory meeting to discuss some issues without making decisions. He said that during this preparatory meeting agreement will be reached on another call for convening the PNC on another date at which a quorum will be achieved.

Al-Za'nun spoke about the PNC agenda. He said at the top of the issues the PNC will discuss is the PLO's financial and political reports. It will also elect a new PLO Executive Committee and prepare the political statement that defines the PLO's general policy in the coming stage.

Khalaf on Syrian Stand

JN171750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has stressed that the PNC will convene as scheduled in Amman on 22 November. He said that there is no chance to back away from this decision. In a press statement in Kuwait yesterday, Abu Iyad said that convening of the PNC has become a pressing need. Its convocation is supported by all Arab countries except the Syrian and Libyan regimes. Abu Iyad denounced the Syrian regime's disgraceful stands toward PLO unity and its continuous attempts to usurp independent Palestinian decision-making.

Brother Abu Iyad stressed that the Syrian regime plays an evil role in fragmenting the Arab situation and raises national and pan-Arab slogans at a time when it blesses the current talks between the Zionist entity and Lebanon. He said the Syrian regime has prevented a number of Palestinian personalities from leaving Damascus to participate in the Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue. This regime has confiscated the passports of some Palestinians despite the fact that the passports were not issued in Syria. Brother Abu Iyad added that there is similarity and coordination between the Zionist entity and the Syrian regime on preventing Palestinian personalities from attending the PNC meetings.

Al-Fahum, Abu Mayzar Reject PNC

JN180809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has asserted that 'Arafat's call for a PNC session in Amman on 22 November is null and void because he has no right to issue such a call. Al-Fahum added that the only qualified person to issue that call is the PNC speaker.

Al-Fahum said that he will not call on the PNC members to meet in Amman on 22 November. He would rather ask them not to respond to 'Arafat's call in order to avert a serious PLO split that would lead to liquidating the Palestinian cause. Al-Fahum said that most of the PNC members adhere to the PNC's 16th session, particularly to four definite issues: the stand toward Camp David, the Reagan plan, deviations from PNC resolutions, and Palestinian-Arab relations.

On the occupied territories' reactions to 'Arafat's call for holding the PNC in Amman, Al-Fahum said: We are completely convinced of our people's patriotism, steadfastness, and confrontation of the enemy. Yesterday and today, we received petitions signed by more than 15 mayors, led by great struggler Bassam al-Shak'ah. They reiterated their rejection of holding the PNC in Amman on 22 November. They demanded comprehensive dialogue among all the Palestinian forces in order to establish a common political and organizational denominator among us so that we will attend the PNC united and with one voice. Al-Fahum announced that more than one third of the PNC members will not attend the Amman 22 November session.

'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar [PLO Executive Committee member and official spokesman] has asserted that 'Arafat's call for the PNC session was illegal. Everything that is based on illegal ground is also illegal. He said the Palestinian cause is a sacred fire that will burn the fingers of those who tamper with it.

Abu Mayzar noted that our people's revolutionary vision, as expressed by the Palestinian national bodies, which affirmed the importance of strategic cohesion between the Palestinian and

Syrian sides on the one hand and the socialist states on the other, is the line that separates those in the resistance forces who stand against imperialist plans and Zionist plots [as heard]. Abu Mayzar praised Syria's role in Lebanon and its foiling the 17 May agreement. He said: This was done through President Hafiz al-Asad's historical leadership and his confronting the results of the 1982 aggression. Syria is the only country whose soldiers took part in the Beirut and the Lebanese mountain battles.

Al-Fahum Asks Chatti, Klibi Not To Attend

JN180828 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has asserted that the necessary quorum for the 17th PNC session will not be available. Al-Fahum has sent letters to ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti and Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi asking them not to attend the opening session of the PNC, scheduled to begin in Amman on 22 November.

PNC Deputy Speaker on Session

JN170902 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 18

[Muhammad Malkawi's dispatch]

[Text] Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu al-Adib, first deputy speaker of the PNC, arrived in Amman yesterday to prepare for convening the PNC in Amman on Thursday. In an exclusive statement to *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, Al-Za'nun asserted that the convocation of the PNC is legitimate and in accordance with the PLO's basic law which calls for holding the PNC annually. The PNC speaker has violated the law for not convening the PNC during the past 1 year and 8 months. Therefore, the Executive Committee sent a message to the PNC speaker asking him to convene the PNC in Amman on Thursday.

Al-Za'nun said: In accordance with the the PNC laws, the speaker is committed to convene the PNC. If the PNC speaker refuses to convene the PNC, Article Eight of the basic law authorizes the Executive Committee to announce the speaker's rejection to the members and to invite them to attend the council's session considering its convocation at the time and venue fixed in the invitation as legal. This is in addition to the statement by 150 members asking the speaker to invite the council at the fixed time and venue. The council speaker is committed to convene the PNC, otherwise the council convening the PNC will be considered legal. Consequently, all procedures to hold the council are legal and in accordance with the law.

Al-Za'nun asserted the legitimacy and legality of the Executive Committee's meeting that was held in Tunis on 4 January 1984. This meeting, in which nine members participated, adopted a decision calling for the convening of the PNC. A four-member committee was formed to follow up the decision. The committee consisted of Yasir 'Arafat, Faruq al-Qaddumi, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and Jamal al-Surani. He said that obstacles prevented Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi from participating in the meetings. He said: In 1979, the Executive Committee adopted a decision allowing the committee — if a quorum is not achieved — to meet after 24 hours with eight members, thus considering the meeting legal.

Al-Za'nun said that the prominent items on the council's agenda are listening to the political report, prepared by the PLO Political Department, and to the financial statement. The council will then form political, financial, occupied homeland, and popular organization committees.

Al-Za'nun added: The PLO Political Department officials in Amman have made the primary arrangements for holding the PNC there. We will complete the rest of the procedures which include distributing the agenda to the council, preparing the required cards for the members, coordinating with our Jordanian brothers, and preparing for the opening session.

Al-Za'nun pointed out the importance of convening the PNC in Amman. He noted that our kinfolk in the occupied territory will closely follow up the council's work. Their attention and their participation are important at this time, because the Zionist enemy is trying to terminate and spread despair among our people.

Al-Za'nun expressed the PNC's appreciation for Jordan's agreement to host the council. The PNC's 14th session in Damascus and 16th session in Algiers asserted our distingusihed relations with Jordan. After the success of this session we will confront the dangers of which the Zionist enemy boasts and which Sharon, Kahane, and others repeat so often.

Answering a question on who will chair the council if the speaker does not attend, Abu al-Adib said: The PNC bylaws provide that in this case the deputy speaker will chair the sessions. But, if the members want to elect a new speaker, one member or more will be nominated. The speaker must obtain the votes of half the members.

On moving the PNC's chairmanship after the Amman session, Abu al-Adib said: Article 12 of the PNC bylaws provides that the PNC's office should be inside the PLO's center. We — in the PNC's office — have always called on the speaker to abide by this article and to move his office to Tunis, the PLO's center, but the speaker rejected this call. He added the the PNC's office must be moved to Tunis after the Amman session.

Al-Za'nun concluded by saying that the official number of the PNC members is 384. This figure includes those who are inside the occupied territory, in addition to four or five members in southern Lebanon. Consequently, the number will about 374 members.

JORDAN TIMES on Preparations

JN190657 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni with agency dispatches]

[Text] Amman — The second man of Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian commando group, said Sunday Fatah would leave the

PLO if a meeting of the FNC, scheduled to meet in Amman Thursday, failed to secure a quorum.

Mr Salah Khalaf, a senior member of the Fatah Central Committee, was quoted by REUTER as telling a group of Palestinians in Kuwait that he was confident that the two-third quorum needed for the 17th session of the Palestinian parliament in exile in Amman will attend the session. But Mr. Khalaf added: "Fatah will pull out of the PLO if the PNC does not achieve a qorum for its meeting in Amman." Palestinian observers in Amman said Mr Khalaf's statement was meant to assert that Fatah has secured the required quorum and the Fatah official's comment was in reply to doubts cast by the Damascus-based speaker of the PNC Khalid al-Fahum that the number of the members that will attend will be much less than the two-third quorum.

The thrust of the campaign focused on raising doubts about the legitimacy of the meeting and accusing Fatah of deviating from the PLO Charter. The criticism and a boycott by seven other PLO factions have so far not affected Fatah's determination to convene the council in Amman, and the movement's leaders reiterated Sunday that the decision was final. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat strongly defended the decision Sunday, stressing that "by convening (the PNC) in Amman, we will be away from the influence and scrutiny of the Syrian intelligence."

A key faction in the "Democratic alliance," the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), announced Saturday that it had welcomed the Executive Committee meeting and accused its ally, the PFLP, of trying to impede the functions of PLO institutions.

In an interview with the Paris-based pan-Arab weekly *AL-WATAN AL-ARABI*, Mr 'Arafat said that convening the council in Amman will strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian coordination which aims at "breaking the current stalemate in the Arab world."

The *JORDAN TIMES* contacted several PNC members of these who expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the executive Committee meeting. [sentence as published] "By calling on the Executive Committee to meet Fatah has not exactly responded to our suggestions, but an Executive Committee meeting would have provided a good start," said an independent PNC member who asked not to be named.

For many PNC members, who advocate the postponement of the PNC, an Executive Committee meeting meant the last chance for effecting any change in Fatah's position. "We are sure now that it is too late to do anything to postpone the PNC," said another member, who supports the "Democratic Alliance." PNC members contacted by the *JORDAN TIMES* also criticized the PFLP for rejecting Mr 'Arafat's call. They also said that Fatah made a hasty decision by calling on the PNC to meet.

The *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that about 10 of the 37 members are expected to attend the PNC session while several members indicated that they had not made up their mind yet as of Sunday.

Conditions for Postponement

GF181610 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Nov 84 p 1

[Excerpt] On the eve of the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis, *AL-QABAS* yesterday learned that Fatah is prepared to defer the convening of the PNC on fixed and final conditions. Fatah has stipulated that a clear and conclusive agreement must be reached by the concerned parties on an imminent date for convening the PNC, before an announcement on postponing it can be made. The Fatah leadership has said that this agreement must precede a real and practical end to all the blackmailing and delaying tactics adopted so far, in conjunction with an invitation to convene the PNC.

12 Syrian Members Arrive in Amman

JN170809 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-DUSTUR* has learned that more than 12 PNC members and other Palestinian figures residing in Syria have managed to arrive in Amman in different ways in order to participate in the PNC session at a time when information received from Damascus said that the Syrian authorities had prevented the PNC members in Syria from departing anywhere.

New Book on PLO Air Force, Arms Production

JN171047 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced that Palestinian Air Force squadrons are now participating in protecting the airspace of the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab as well as some Arab airspace.

This is stated in a book entitled "The Military Option After the Palestinian Departure From Beirut," written by 'Arafat Hijazi, a well-known journalist and writer, which is expected to create a big uproar when published within the next 2 days. The PLO chairman says: Three Palestinian factories manufacture Palestinian weapons, and the products of these factories were actually distributed to the Palestinian forces inside the occupied territory and in southern Lebanon. The interesting book contains a number of photographs of various Palestinian fighter units, naval crews, gunboats, and Palestinian Air Force fighter planes.

The book, which consists of five chapters, speaks about the dangers of division and differences among some Palestinian resistance factions. However, the book says that the division and differences did not prevent the PLO military structure from becoming stronger than it was before the Lebanese war.

The author of the book says that he spent 500 hours with 'Arafat. He attended the military maneuvers of various Palestinian corps, and he attended the PLO chairman's meetings with a number of world leaders. This helped the author to become acquainted with the many secrets that the PLO was determined to keep hidden, including the military industry. The Palestinian revolution forces commander in chief allowed him to publish these details in order to inform the world of the failure of the Zionist-U.S. conspiracy to liquidate the PLO or to obstruct its march.

The book discloses details on the Palestinian Air Force in particular. The author says: A big power invited Palestinian pilots to participate in one of its big military shows. The Palestinian fighter planes also participated in many wars on the side of friendly liberation forces and helped them to achieve their independence from foreign forces that occupied their territory.

The book contains information on Palestinian instructors who are training Palestinian pilots on sophisticated fighter planes. This prompted the SFRY Government to award the Palestinian Air Force with a gold medal which is granted to only the most efficient air forces. On the retraining of the Palestinian fighters, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] says: Throughout the past year, we were able to train our various forces with high efficiency unattained during the 10 years that preceded the Lebanese war.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Tunisian Envoy 18 Nov

GF190620 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Manama, 18 Nov (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today Dr Mustafa al-Masmudi, the Tunisian prime minister's adviser, and chairman of the Arab Committee on Information Affairs and chairman of the Tunisian Committee for the Use of Outer Space, who is currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad. After the meeting Dr Al-Masmudi stated that during the meeting he heard the views and concepts of his highness the amir of Bahrain with regards to the construction of a joint Arab future. He said that he discussed with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah bilateral relations between Tunis and Bahrain and ways to strengthen them. Dr Al-Masmudi arrived in Manama yesterday on a 2-day visit.

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Message

GF181140 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Manama, 18 Nov (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has received a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with relations between the two countries and current developments in the region. The message was delivered by Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Bahrain 'Abbas Shokuhi during a meeting with Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah in Manama today.

KUWAIT

Official Denies Plan to Cede Islands to Iraq

NC181358 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 18 (AFP) — A senior official here has denied Iranian reports that Kuwait might cede three small islands in the northeastern Gulf to Iraq, as part of a border settlement, an Iranian diplomatic source said today. Foreign ministry undersecretary Rashid al-Rashid gave the assurance to Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohamed Reza Baqeri yesterday, after asking him about Iranian reports, the source said. The Iran-Iraq war is over four years old.

The issue surfaced on Friday when Iran's parliamentary speaker, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said Iran had "unconfirmed reports" that Kuwait had agreed to hand over the three islands — and warned that Iran might seize them. The islands of Bubiyan, Warbah and Faylakah lie off the Kuwaiti mainland, close to Iraq.

Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah of Kuwait said after talks in Iraq last Monday the Kuwaiti and Iraqi interior ministers would discuss differences over their 160 km (100 miles) border which date back over two decades.

According to the Iranian diplomatic source here today, Mr Rashid made it clear yesterday the quesiton of the islands was not raised during the crown prince's talks in Baghdad. "These islands are Kuwaiti and will remain so," he added. He was asked "several times" by Mr Baqeri, the Iranian charge d'affaires, for a published "official denial," the Iranian diplomatic source said.

Minister Comments on Beirut Embassy 'Attack'

LD171439 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1311 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Kuwait, 17 nov (KUNA) — Kuwait today expressed its regret over yesterday's attack on its Beirut embassy. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs, told journalists that Kuwait is following up the incident closely, and is seeking to obtain all available information about the incident. Beirut security sources have yet to identify the side which carried out the attack or those behind it.

The minister of state praised Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Minister of Justice and Minister for the Affairs of the South Nabih Birri. He said that "their posture expresses the true, strong fraternal relations which link Lebanon with Kuwait." He added that Minister Birri, during contacts made with him today, expressed his pain and regret over this incident [words indistinct] the contents of his statements about the positive postures toward kuwait.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced that Lebanese sources have informed Kuwait that initial investigations could shortly lead to identifying the perpetrators. He also announced that the explosives used in the attack were thrown against the embassy's outside fence and that there were no casualties.

With regard to the GCC summit conference set to be held in Kuwait on the 27th of this month, the minister of state said that the summit will discuss all Arab issues, including the Iraqi-Iranian war, in light of the geographical location of the GCC states and the influence of this war on these states. He said that the discussion will be within the framework of the efforts already being exerted to stop the war. He expressed the hope of the GCC countries that a formula to end this destructive war and to stop the human and economic waste between the two neighboring Muslim countries will be reached.

Defense Minister To Visit Brazil in January

GF181510 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Nov 84 p 1

[Husayn Salamah report]

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned that Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah will lead a Kuwaiti military delegation to visit Brazil in January 1985. Shaykh Salim has accepted an official invitation from his Brazilian counterpart conveyed through Board Chairman of the Brazilian Arms Industry Authority Jose Albuquerque who was in Kuwait in October 1984. Shaykh Salim will examine the most modern Brazilian weapons, especially ground-to-air missiles.

The Brazalian delegation which visited Kuwait in October carried with it samples of these missiles for Defense Ministry officials to examine. However, Kuwait has not yet decided to purchase them. During Shaykh Salim's visit to Brazil these weapons will be studied as to their quality and suitability to the Kuwaiti environment. Shaykh Salim will visit arms factories as well as attending live ammunition maneuvers.

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Receives UK Counterpart

LD181255 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1044 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Nov (SPA) — At noon today, at the palace of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, received British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine, who arrived in Riyadh last night on a private visit to the Kingdom. The British secretary of state for defense, accompanied by the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Patrick Right, had lunch with HRH Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD191309 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today received Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Nigerian Head of State Arrives for Visit

LD160445 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Nov (SPA) — His Excellency Major General Muhammadu Buhari, Nigerian head of state and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, arrived this evening in Jeddah from Addis Ababa for a visit to the Kingdom, during which he will meet His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, perform the minor pilgrimage, and visit the prophet's mosque. The Nigerian president is accompanied by Air Commodore Usman Muazu, military governor of Kaduna, and the ministers of planning, foreign affairs, and justice. He was welcomed on arrival at the airport by His Royal Highness Amir Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Mecca region amir; His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of oil and mineral resources; and a number of officials.

Talks With King

LD171523 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Riyadh 17 Nov (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency Major General Muhammadu Buhari, chairman of the military government and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, met today. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh region; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani. On the Nigerian side the meeting was attended by Minister of Justice Chike Ofodile; External Affairs Minister Dr Ibrahim Gambari; Minister of Planning Michael Sunday Adigun; and Nigerian Ambassador to the Kingdom Adam Sanusi.

UAE

AL-BAYAN on Reagan 'Ambition' for Mideast Peace

GF171102 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0657 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Nov (WAM) — The newspaper *AL-BAYAN* said today that U.S. President Ronald Reagan will not secure a place in history if his Mideast peace plans are the same as those that his predecessor, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, tried to impose through the Camp David accords. In its editorial today, *AL-BAYAN* comments on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's announcement following his recent reelection that he has only one ambition left, namely, to enter the history books as the man who achieved peace in the Middle East.

Al-BAYAN said that no one can be certain if Ronald Reagan actually meant what he said, or whether it was merely a beautiful statement inspired by the movement of victory and celebration toasts, or perhaps it was a compliment to the Zionist lobby representatives to whom the statement "peace in the Middle East" simply means securing Israel's position as the controlling power which has the upper hand in the whole region and the continuation of Arab weakness.

AL-BAYAN emphasized that U.S. bias toward Israel will not achieve peace. The paper said that no matter how convenient the subjective and objective Arab circumstances looked for the imposition of the Israeli-U.S. peace on the Arabs, these circumstances are a passing phenomenon and President Ronald Reagan will discover that he has not entered history but drifted far toward oblivion. The newspaper added that President Reagan will secure the place in history to which he aspires if he realizes that his country's strategic and economic interests can only be preserved through close friendship ties with the Arab world and that this friendship cannot be imposed by force but rather grows or withers through stands and actions, which until now have been conducive to withering and total disappearance.

In conclusion, *AL-BAYAN* called on President Reagan to cast off the misleading Israeli lenses and remove from his ears the microphones of the Zionist lobby. When that happens it will not be impossible for him to find a place in history beside Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.

Al-KHALIJ Reports New U.S. Initiatives 'Illusion'

GF171020 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0655 GMT 17 Nov 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 17 Nov (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* warned against reports about amended U.S. initiatives and described these reports as a kind of "temporary illusion which is intended to take hold in order to enable the United States to implement is plots after the ground and minds have been prepared for it." *AL-KHALIJ* said such reports have been leaked in order to keep the U.S. illusion in the minds of those who are spellbound by it.

The newspaper noted that it is not ruled out that Washington is preparing for a new amended initiative, saying that preserving U.S. interests and friends requires it to continue to make initiatives and statements and to send mediators. It asked: Will this initiative be wholly or partly different from the Reagan plan? Will this initiative recognize the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state? Will it consider the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal? Will it call for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories? And will it guarantee that Israel will not begin new aggressions?

The paper answered all these questions in the negative and said: Washington will probably formulate its old and unchanging ideas which are based on alliance with the Israeli enemy, the policy of forcing Arab countries bound to Western strategy to serve U.S. interests — preventing the creation of heathy relations between any two Arab countries — and on continued interference in Arab countries' affairs to prevent these countries from accomplishing any real national development that might lead to successful political and economic independence.

PDRY

Chairman Returns From GDR, Poland

GF160602 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, returned last night after he made two amicable visits to the GDR and Poland.

In a statement upon his arrival, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad praised the outcome of the talks which he held with Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council; and Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, PZPR first secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers. He also hailed the results of these two visits. He said: My visits to the friendly GDR and Poland are a continuation of the visits which I made last month to a number of other friendly socialist countries and which are aimed at strengthening the relations of friendship and solidarity between our party and country and the parties and countries of the socialist bloc in implementing the policy of our YSP and to strengthen [words indistinct]. The two visits gave us the opportunity to hold meetings and talks with senior party and state officials in the GDR and Poland led by Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council; and Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, PZPR first secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Libyan Official Arrives With Al-Qadhdhafi Note

GF161524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the Popular Committee for External Communications in the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY. He told ANA that he will deliver a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the First of September Revolution.

Chairman Sends Message to PLO's 'Arafat

GF190708 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has sent a reply message to Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. Here is the text:

I greet you and thank you for your appreciation for the efforts exerted by our party and country to preserve the unity of the PLO on the bases opposed to imperialism and Zionism. As we reiterate our principled and constant position which supports the liberation struggle of the fraternal Palestinian people, we believe that the current circumstances of the Palestinian revolution require from all Palestinian resistance factions a demonstration of utmost wisdom to preserve PLO unity — the great gain that resulted from the struggle of the Palestinian people and their sacrifices and of the thousands of martyrs among their children, and of the support of the various Arab and international liberation and progressive powers. What is needed is the continued struggle of the Palestinian people, the restoration of their usurped rights, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

We affirm the Aden-Algiers agreement and the resolutions of the 13th session of the PNC as the basis for Palestinian national unity. We are adverse to the undertaking of any action that will lead to the disintegration of [words indistinct] such as the call for the convocation of the PNC without a comprehensive national consensus.

We call on you and your brothers in the leadership of the other Palestinian organizations, and urge you, in the name of the martyrs, to exert the utmost possible effort to preserve PLO strength and unity. Rest assured that the PDRY party, government and people will continue to stand alongside PLO unity — that leads the Palestinian people's struggle toward victory.

This message comes in response to the message of Brother Yasir 'A afat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, who thanked him for the efforts by the PDRY to preserve PLO unity. The message also pertains to the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, and the call for the convocation of the PNC.

SDAR President Arrives in Aden 16 Nov

GF161949 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia al-Hamra and Wadi al-Thahab — the Polisario, arrived in Aden today leading a delegation on a visit to our country lasting several days.

In a statement to ANA he expressed his pleasure at visiting the PDRY, where this visit falls within the framework of the coordination and consultation that exists between our country and the SDAR. He pointed out that he will discuss with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the situation in northwestern Africa and the struggle of the Polisario Front. He pointed out that this visit will be an opportunity to discuss the situation in the Arab and African arenas in addition to a discussion of reinforcement of bilateral relations that exist between the YSP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia al-Hamra and Wadi al-Thahab.

Upon arrival he was received by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, in addition to other members of the Central Committee, ministers, and deputy ministers.

Received by Chairman

GF171540 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario.

During the meeting, held in a fraternal atmosphere, bilateral relations and the dimensions of their development were discussed. During the meeting, the brother secretary general reiterated our country's support for the struggle of the Saharan people and their right to self-determination, pointing out that the approval of the SDAR's membership in the OAU represents a new victory for the Saharan people and a support for their just struggle. They also reviewed the current Arab situation, particularly the situation of the Arab national liberation movement and the means to confront the challenges facing the movement as a result of reactionary, imperialist, and Zionist plans, and the importance of bolstering their role and position.

On his part, Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz expressed his pride and the pride of the Saharan people and the Polisario Front for the struggle relations with the PDRY, praising PDRY support for the struggle of the Saharan people, and affirming that the PDRY's firm stance next to the Saharan people's right expresses PDRY's principled stance toward the Arab national liberation movement. He pointed out that his visit to our country enabled him to study and review various current Arab issues and a number of issues of mutual concern. He expressed his joy at meeting with the brother secretary general and the rest of the party and state officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF171632 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of Polisario, left Aden today after concluding his 2-day visit to our country. During his visit he held talks concentrating on the strengthening of the relations between the two fraternal parties and peoples.

DPRK Foreign Minister Stops at Aden Airport

GF171742 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee and DPRK foreign minister, stopped over at the Aden airport today on his way home from Addis Ababa.

Assassination of Former Libyan Official Attempted

Mubarak Affirms Al-Bakkush Alive

NC171400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Banha, 17 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush is still alive and is currently in Aswan. President Husni Mubarak said at a popular rally at the Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate's headquarters in Banha that he has warned world leaders about international terrorism.

In his statement, President Mubarak said that there are terrorist operations being planned to assassinate the West German chancellor and the king of Saudi Arabia, and that there are operations to overthrow the government in Pakistan and install the son of Ali Bhutto there.

In his statement to the People's Council members of Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, the president warned world leaders about international terrorism, which is financed by advocates of terrorism with the income and revenue of their countries. The president said: In our dealings we behave like a civilized country [words indistinct] we deal with our neighbors and do not attack them because we want to maintain good-neighborly relations.

Referring to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's dealings, President Mubarak said that since he was elected president, Al-Qadhdhafi has sent 13 emissaries with whom he discussed problems, including the Red Sea problem. He also said that Al-Qadhdhafi sent an emissary who offered 5 billion pounds to abandon the Camp David accords.

President Mubarak stressed that there will be no bargaining over our country's causes. Our Constitution does not give us the right to hand over political refugees and we do not allow political refugees here to carry out political acts against their country.

Mubarak Details Assassination Plot

NC171706 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Banha, 17 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has disclosed the truth about the imaginary story of the assassination of former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush. In a statement he made today at the Al-Qalyabiyah Governate's headquarters in Banha, President Mubarak said that the Libyan leadership had assigned an Englishman, in cooperation with two people from Malta, to assassinate Libyan personalities living in Egypt.

The president added: We learned that Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi intended to assassinate 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush. We pursued the issue. I learned about this affair during my recent visit to the FRG early this month.

President Mubarak added: We managed to arrest the group which intended to assassinate Al-Bakkush, who was in Aswan during the preparations for the assassination. We gave fake pictures showing him seriously wounded and drowning in his own blood. These pictures were transmitted to the Libyan leadership by these terrorists through the Libyan Embassy in Malta.

The president went on: What is astonishing and strange is that the Libyan officials competed among themselves to report to Al-Qadhdhafi the news of Al-Bakkush's assassination.

President Mubarak further said that the terrorists received $106,000 for carrying out this imaginary operation.

AFP: Air Patrols Increased

NC180923 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 18 Nov 84

[By Hassan Zenati]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 18 (AFP) — Egyptian aircraft stepped up their patrols over the border with Libya yesterday as the government here revealed how its secret services had tricked Tripoli into believing a former Libyan prime minister had been assassinated, informed sources said today. The affair of 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, whose death at the hands of a Libyan "suicide squad," announced Friday by the Libyan news agency, was shown yesterday to have been faked by the Egyptians, has increased tension even further between the two neighbouring states, the sources said.

Some 100,000 Egyptian troops have been guarding the border since July 1977, when the two sides fought a brief war, but tension has been mounting perceptibly since last summer, when Egypt accused Libya of sowing mines in the Red Sea which damaged at least 18 ships.

Mubarak Reveals Other Plots

NC181750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Responding to questions by foreign correspondents today, President Husni Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not militarily attack Libya unless forced to do so and that the Egyptian reply would be severe if Egypts borders were violated. The president said: I hope that this will not occur. We are not planning to attack anyone under any circumstances other than for self-protection.

President Mubarak denied that Egypt has raised its Armed Forces' state of preparedness along the border with Libya following recent developments. He said: I believe that there is no need for this.

President Mubarak affirmed that the information about the Al-Bakkush assassination plot originated in Cairo. He said that the Egyptian intelligence service alone uncovered and foiled this plot.

President Mubarak said in his replies to journalists, following his meeting today with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, that Egyptian authorities have information from arrested terrorists regarding other terrorists collaborating with the Libyan regime who are in several states, including Britain. The president noted that these states will be notified of this information.

President Mubarak called on the international community to cooperate to confront this international terrorism now that it has turned to financing international terrorist operations. The president said that the investigations being conducted in India reveal that foreign hands were involved. The confessions made by the terrorists arrested indicate involvement in financing the plot to assassinate Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The president said that the investigations indicate plots to assassinate British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the king of Saudi Arabia, the president of the UAE, and the amir of Kuwait. The plot also includes an attempt to overthrow the present regime in Pakistan. President Mubarak asked: How long will the international community allow the Libyan regime to commit such offenses.

President Mubarak said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had attempted to contact him through an envoy before he departed on his recent tour to France and Germany. The president outlined that he gave no reply, noting that these attempts were repeatedly made by Al-Qadhdhafi before he planned one of his aggressive operations and that he notified the responsible officials in Egypt to take precautions.

Rushdi on Assassination Attempt

NC181758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi has said that, at President Husni Mubarak's request, today he contacted FRG Ambassador Dr Kurt Mueller and French Ambassador in Cairo Philippe Cuvillier to brief them on the dimensions of the operation to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush. Other briefings were given to the political leadership and to Arab and friendly states' leaders.

Rushdi pointed out that the emergency law provisions were not applied to this operation although it was a terrorist operation. He said that he is upholding the pledge he made before the People's Assembly that he would not use the emergency law except in extreme cases and within the narrowest of limits.

Rushdi said that dealing with, and following up on, the assassination operation was conducted according to the provisions of ordinary laws and that the state security prosecution had been kept informed of the developments as they occurred.

Rushdi said that there were certain aspects he did not wish to reveal at his news conference last night because they were connected with the security department's method of confronting such terrorist operations. He did not want to give terrorist elements the opportunity to exploit them.

Rusdi said that foiling the operation to assassinate Al-Bakkush does not represent a success of only the Egyptian security departments, but is also a success of Egypt and the Arab nation, which is fully aware of the dangerous role Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has in carrying out sabotage. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi was now in an unenviable position before the Arab and European peoples.

Rushdi said that 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush is living a normal life just as any Egyptian citizen and is carrying out his daily routine normally.

Rushdi stressed that the Egyptian security deparatments will provide complete protection and security to all Libyans living in Egypt, noting that there is no alienation or enmity between the Egyptian and the Libyan peoples. If there is any enmity, it is between us and the ruling regime in Libya, because of its inclination for conducting terrorism and sabotage not only in Egypt, but in most countries of the world.

Al-Bakkush Interviewed

NC182140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, former Libyan prime minister and leader of the Libyan Liberation Front, has saluted President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian security department, which he described as including brothers who believe in the necessity of protecting the lives of political refugee leaders in Egypt. In an interview with MENA, Al-Bakkush called on all Arab states, Arab intelligentsia, Arab scientists, those interested in Arab questions, and civilized governments to take a stand on Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime. He said these states must take a stand toward the world's leading terrorist.

Al-Bakkush outlined in his statement that the Libyan people are like hostages because of al-Qadhdhafi's abonormal political practices. Al-Qadhdhafi kills and terrorizes Libyan citizens;no Libyan has the right to object or resist since the people's committees have been imposed on them.

Al-Bakkush said: Al-Qadhdhafi's regime forced us into the opposition not for the sake of seeking power, but because of differences regarding basic principles. Nevertheless, we gave Al-Qadhdhafi time to see the direction in which matters were proceeding. In fact, Al-Qadhdhafi did not waste time. He immediately revealed his abnormal practices, and his killing, terrorist, and sabotage operations in Libya. He spent money on international terrorism and on aiding deviationist regimes. He immediately led us to the point of opposing his abnormal ruling system. Opposition was formed for the sake of human rights and for the sake of our belief in the citizen's and homeland's freedom.

Al-Bakkush said: The Libyan man inside Libya has lost his sense of affiliation, his ownership right, his freedom of expression, and his right to choose his livelihood. Al-Qadhdhafi abolished all laws in Libya and rules the country by abnormal laws of his own making.

Al-Bakkush expressed the hope that Libya will get rid of autocratic rule so that it can live under a constitution, parliamentary system, and elections similar to many fraternal and neighboring countries.

He said: Al-Qadhdhafi's actions will lead him nowhere and will destroy the country economically, socially, and culturally. This is the behavior of a sick man who carries out abnormal practies, satisfying his illusions and whims.

Al-Bakkush stressed that the Arab, European, and African world clearly knows the degree of the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's alliance with terrorist organizations, such as the German and Italian terrorist organizations. He said that the image Al-Qadhdhafi has painted for himself is a gloomy picture of a terrorist ruling a state and exploiting its huge oil resources for terrorist practices.

Speaking about the assassination attempt, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush said: I do not consider this latest crime, in which Al-Qadhdhafi failed due to the intelligence and shrewdness of the Egyptian security authorities, as directed specifically against me, but I do consider it as an example of the crimes the colonel's regime has been committing openly and which have been shamelessly praised by its information media.

Al-Bakkush added: History has never known a ruler such as Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Nevertheless, the world takes a lenient attitude toward him because of economic interests which will not be achieved even in the long term.

Al-Bakkush said: The Libyan Liberation Front, together with several other liberation fronts inside and outside Libya, are assiduously seeking to get rid of the regime of this abnormal ruler. We have heard about scores of attempts against Al-Qadhdhafi. One day the Armed Forces will rid Libya of this abnormal ruler, and we will spare no effort to get rid of this regime.

He called on the Libyan people to take a positive stand against the Al-Qadhdhafi regime and get rid of fear and anxiety.

Regarding the abortive attempt to assassinate him, Al-Bakkush said: I know that I was being pursued by the terrorist Al-Qadhdhafi, but I knew nothing specific until 3 weeks ago when the Egyptian authorities asked me to cooperate with them to uncover these terrorist elements and trick them into believing that they succeeded in completing their operation, then expose them before the international community.

He added: I fulfilled my role in this operation as requested. I am happy to say that I have always trusted the Egyptian security authorities, but this time and as a result of close and direct contact, my trust in these men has become absolute. I dealt with young people eager to combat crime and protect lives. These are men who work out of a conviction and belief in the need to provide security and protection to those who have sought refuge in Egypt and who have requested security and safety.

Al-Bakkush pointed out: The operation was successful, and we achieved results which have already been announced to the world. From these results, we have learned the extent of the Libyan regime's terrorism.

Al-Bakkush affirmed that he will not change his method, his opposition, and his stands toward the abnormal Libyan regime, because his life is worthless compared to salvation from the sick regime dominating Libya.

Al-Bakkush addressed the Egyptian people and said: On behalf of the Libyan people and free Libyans everywhere, I convey thanks to the president, Government, and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt. I have seen for myself how Egypt is eager to preserve noble values, ethics, traditions, and respect for the law and human rights. I owe my life to the Egyptians.

Concluding his interview, Al-Bakkush said: I ask the Libyan people to continue their steadfastness and to make further attempts to rid themselves of this regime.

Reportage on Visit of Italian Prime Minister Craxi

Craxi Arrives in Cairo

NC171445 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Mrs Craxi arrived in Cairo at 1600 today on a 3-day visit to Egypt. Mr and Mrs Craxi were received on arrival by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Mrs 'Ali.

'Ali, Craxi Begin Talks

NC171829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi at Al-Tahirah Palace this evening. In the meantime, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid conferred with Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti. The Egyptian and Italian foreign ministers later joined the meeting between the two prime ministers.

'Ali, Craxi Dinner Speeches

NC172050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his wife hosted a dinner tonight in honor of Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and his wife. Members of the delegation accompanying Craxi, some ministers, and their wives attended the dinner.

Prime Minister 'Ali delivered the following speech during the banquet:

Your Excellency Signor Bettino Craxi, Mrs Craxi, honorable guests, and ladies and gentlemen;

It is the pleasure of my wife and myself to warmly welcome his excellency the Italian prime minister, his virtuous wife, and the honorable members of the delegation accompanying them on their visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Indeed, we have been looking forward with pride to this visit and to the opportunities it provides for discussing the further strengthening of the outstanding relations existing between our countries and peoples and for exchanging views on contemporary problems and issues of common interest to us. This visit is also a continuation of the constant contacts taking place among all officials and at various levels in the two countries.

Your Excellency, the firm relations linking Italy with Egypt, whether at the governmental or popular levels, are traditional relations forged by history and geography, the people's will, and the mutual desire to develop and promote these relations in the interest of the two peoples and countries.

Two cultures, which have a prominent place in history, have existed in your friendly country and in Egypt. These cultures have significantly contributed to mankind's legacy in various scientific, cultural, commercial, and technical fields, thus influencing both the mind and spirit.

The Mediterranean, of which Italy and Egypt are two of its littoral states, has been a bridge between the two cultures, and thus came the creative interaction and mutually beneficial contributions between them. The Mediterranean Sea has contributed toward deepening Italian-Egyptian relations in view of the geographical proximity and hence the opportunities for our people to visit each other.

The contemporary reality of relations between the two countries is an extension of their history. We in Egypt view with great satisfaction the progress of bilateral relations in various spheres. We also express our full satisfaction with the developments that we have achieved together in the areas of joint action.

I would like to affirm to you that we deeply believe that there are still opportunities for further consolidating these relations in the interest of our two countries and our two peoples. The mutual Italian-Egyptian understanding provides the suitable atmosphere in which to further develop bilateral relations.

I am confident that your current visit to Egypt and the talks which we have begun and which we will continue tomorrow constitute a positive and great contribution in this respect.

Your Excellency, perhaps you share the view that we live during a time when great progress in various fields, particularly in telecommunications, has brought nations closer together and hence nations are more affected by events in the international arena and by tension and instability in some areas of the world. It has become difficult for any state in our contemporary world — regardless of its good intentions or great efforts — to completely fortify itself against the negative effects of the continuing tension and instability.

Therefore, it is imperative for all efforts to be unified and for various energies to be brought together to eliminate the sources of tension and to bring about stability and peace throughout the world.

We well realize the utmost importance of security and stability in Europe and its positive reflection on the world situation in general and on the Middle East, including Egypt, in particular. The opposite is also true regarding the need for peace and stability to prevail in this area and its effect on European security.

Perhaps Italy's participation in the Multinational Force in Sinai portrays this fact. I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the role which the Italian contingent is playing in this force and I praise the excellent performance of its members.

Egypt firmly believes in the necessity of the immediate resumption of the peace process in the Middle East, although circumstances have prevented such a resumption. Egypt expects and calls for an active European role in this respect to complement the EC's initiatives. The European role supporting and pushing the efforts for a settlement in the Middle East has always met with our support and appreciation.

The peace we are seeking in the Middle East is a comprehensive peace based on justice; it is a peace which restores legitimate rights to the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, their right to establish their state in their homeland, and the PLO's right, as representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in the negotiations for a settlement. It is a peace in which coexistence and understnading replaces violence and mistrust.

The war between Iran and Iraq has increased tension and instability in the area. Egypt has taken the initiative to present several ideas and proposals to bring an end to the war which has destructive effects on the two neighboring countries and on the Middle East in general. Egypt calls for further efforts and international action to prevent the continuation of this war and to bring about an honorable peace between the two conflicting states.

Your Excellency, once again my wife and I warmly welcome you and your wife and wish you a happy stay in the Arab Republic of Egypt and a successful, fruitful visit in the interest of our two countries and peoples. Allow me to propose a toast to greet His Excellency Signor Bettino Craxi and his wife, and to praise the excellent relations linking the Arab Republic of Egypt with the Italian Republic, and the permanent friendship between the Italian and Egyptian peoples. Thank you.

In reply, Italian prime minister Craxi said: We live in a historic phase which requires wisdom and equilibrium. Egypt, which has an ancient history, represents an example of wisdom and moderation in the world and in the Middle East in particular. Thanks to Egyptian farsightedness, the peace process in the Middle East has been established. We are contributing to this process through our contingent with the peace-keeping forces in Sinai. There is no doubt that the peace process cannot continue or yield results without Egypt.

He noted that despite the stalemate in the [peace] negotiations, it is satisfying to see how the Egyptian diplomatic moves have recently been received with great appreciation.

Craxi added that Italy, like Egypt, is concerned about the current situation in which it sees a stalemate in the talks for a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. We believe that we must not overlook anything and that we must try through any initiative to encourage rapprochement among the parties, seizing all signs of readiness however limited these may be, while giving credibility to options which can actually be utilized and for which we must seek the greatest approval and solidarity.

Craxi stressed: With positive action and with perseverance and determination we will arrive at a genuine basis for negotiations that will open new and tangible horizons.

He said: This action concerns the parties directly involved in the conflict and to whom we must give our contribution and solidarity. Naturally, this will come from Europe which cannot consider itself removed from events in an area close to it and important in the international balance of power. Europe cannot remain indifferent to demands for complete respect of peoples' rights. Without respect there will be uncertainty and relations will be threatened.

Craxi pointed to the relations between Egypt and Italy and said: During our discussions today it was evident to us that our bilateral relations are progressing well. I would like to affirm tonight that Italy considers Egypt as one of the leading and important countries.

Al-Majid Reports on Talks

NC180650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said after the session of Egyptian-Italian talks that the discussions dealt with some international issues and with bilateral relations. He said that the Italian delegation expressed an interest in knowing the results of the African summit conference as well as Egypt's views on some international issues, such as the Middle Eastern problem and its developments.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: During the discussions, we dealt with the cooperation between Egypt and Italy in many spheres. We expressed our pleasure with the level of cooperation and pointed out that this visit is proof of the solidity of relations between the two countries, of the link between their joint interests as well as of the traditional friendship between Egypt and Italy.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the European role is fundamental in relation to the Middle East question. He said: Italy will head the European Community as of 1 January and we hope that the European countries will play an active role when the Middle East and related issues are discussed.

Further 'Ali-Craxi Talks

NC181215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Egyptian-Italian talks began this morning at the Al-Tahirah Palace. The Egyptian side to the talks was headed by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, while the Italian side was headed by Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

In a statement following the talks, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed the importance of Egyptian-Italian relations in all the various fields. He said that at their meetings yesterday and today, the two sides discussed the political situation in the Mediterranean area in general and its linkage with European security in particular. He added that the discussions also touched on some ideas regarding European and other moves being made to solve the Middle East problem now that the U.S. presidential elections are over.

Continuing his statement, the prime minister said the two sides focused on bilateral relations, particularly on ways of promoting cooperation in various fields. He said that Egypt is one of the leading Mediterranean countries that cooperates with Italy.

The prime minister said that Italy is the number four country in terms of exports to Egypt. He added that the talks also dealt with joint cooperation concerning easy-term loans, grants, and food aid to Egypt, both on the Italian level and the EEC level.

In his statement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the two sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and in prospecting for oil and gas. He added: We know that the Italian company ENI has been operating in Egypt for the past 30 years.

In the field of economy and agriculture, the prime minister said that the Italian side has expressed its readiness to participate in establishing veterinary centers throughout the Republic and to participate in preventive medicine in Egypt.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the Italian side also expressed its readiness to finance, in cooperation with France, the Damanhur station and the nuclear station in Al-Dab'ah. He added that Italy will participate with France in the second stage of the underground metro. This, the prime minister said, shows the volume of bilateral cooperation.

In his statement, the prime minister said that Italy also expressed its readiness to increase the size of current loans when Egypt submits projects during the 3rd year of the Egyptian 5-year plan. He added that the two sides discussed the prospects of bilateral military cooperation in the next stage. He referred in this regard to the recent visit to Egypt by the Italian defense minister.

Craxi Praises Relations

NC181659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has expressed his full appreciation for the development of relations between Egypt and Italy in various fields. In a statement to MENA, Craxi today praised Egypt's efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East and said that bilateral relations between Egypt and Italy are excellent and based on mutual trust.

Craxi expressed his thanks for the cordial and friendly spirit he felt from all Egyptian officials and said: We are seeking to expand and deepen the fields and possibilities of bilateral cooperation.

Craxi affirmed that there is an agreement in views between himself and President Husni Mubarak on many issues of mutual interest.

He said: Egypt is a peace-loving country which believes in peace. We greatly appreciate its role in the area of establishing peace and stability. We also believe it is necessary that each of the parties obtain its legitimate rights.

Craxi noted the influential and efficient role of Egypt as one of the most important states in the area. He also noted the relation-ships linking Europe and the Arab area and said: The area's problems are not strange to us. Therefore, we must participate in the current efforts to push the peace process and achieve a new, firm, and stable future in the area.

Craxi, Mubarak Confer

AU190835 Rome ANSA in English 0815 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo, November 19 — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak voiced skepticism over the new Israeli coalition government's ability to pursue detente in the Mideast and expressed concern over growing radicalism in the Arab world in a long conversation here Sunday with Italian Premier Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Craxi and Andreotti, who arrived in Cairo Friday and will be moving on to Riyadh later today, were able to gather considerable data on the current situation in the Mideast which will help Italy draw up guidelines for European policy during the upcoming Italian deputy chairmanship of the European Community.

Egypt is expecting a more intense European effort to overcome the current stalemate in the Arab-Israeli conflict and, particularly, concerted European pressures on the Reagan administration to get Israel to tow a more moderate line.

Mubarak voiced distrust of the first steps taken by the Israeli Government headed by Shim'on Peres, but told Craxi that Israel showed "some concrete opening on the crucial points of the crisis, such as the Palestinian issue; we would know how to interpret it".

The Egyptian leader also voiced concern over the persistent radicalism of a portion of the Arab camp. He discussed at length with Craxi and Andreotti the "Libyan conspiracy" against stability not only in the Mideast but also in Europe and the rest of the world.

However, Mubarak also said there are other signs which are cause for optimism, particularly the strengthening of the moderate Arab front, in which Egypt places itself and recognizes also Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Egyptian president took pains to seek Craxi's help in outlining Egyptian expectations not only to other European leaders but also to President Reagan.

Briefly, the expectations are: A sincere support of a just solution of the Palestinian problem — seen as the keystone in overcoming all the crises in the Mideast — and a greater international effort to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war, which involves the entire Middle East.

Commenting on the results of his visit to Cairo, Craxi said that relations between Italy and Egypt are excellent and inspired by mutual trust. "Egypt is a peaceful country, which believes in peace and therefore it can always count on the firm and clear position of Italy and of Europe, which do not consider themselves alien to the problems of this region...and intend to participate in the construction of a more stable, less uncertain and less conflictual future."

On the bilateral level, the official Italian visit paved the way to a number of accords, the most important of which concerns the construction of a nuclear power plant at Al-Dab'ah. The plant, which will cost 2.5 billion dollars, will be built by a Franco-Italian consortium.

In other deals, Egypt has signed an option for 22 helicopters from the Agusta firm for an estimated 280 million dollars, as well as minesweepers and possible coproduction of Otomelara tanks.

Craxi Concludes Cairo Visit

NC190930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA) — Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and his delegation left Cairo for Sharm al-Shaykh this morning to inspect Italian oil installations in Abu Rudays and the Italian troops that operate within the peace-keeping forces in the Sinai. The Italian prime minister will leave Sharm al-Shaykh later today for Riyadh on a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Reportage on Visit of Congolese President

Sassou-Nguesso Arrives

NC161144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — President of the People's Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso arrived at Cairo International Airport this afternoon from Addis Ababa. President Husni Mubarak, who led the great African leader's well-wishers, met with him as soon as he arrived.

Mubarak, Sassou-Nguesso Confer

NC161524 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA) — Following his 2-hour meeting today with Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the People's Republic of the Congo, President Husni Mubarak said that he and his African guest discussed all of the issues raised at the African summit, which ended yesterday, inasmuch as he had no opportunity to attend the summit itself.

The president added: We spoke about the various African issues raised at the summit, particularly the question of Namibia's independence. We consider this a primary issue and we support Namibia and all efforts to secure its independence.

The president continued: We also discussed the question of Chad. We support the efforts exerted by the fraternal president of the Congo to achieve a reconciliation among the various Chadian parties; we must all do our best to resolve Africa's issues so that our continent, which is rich in resources, may devote itself to the development of those resources to the improvement of its peoples' standard of living.

Asked about his coming efforts to resolve the Chadian issue, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso said that a meeting was held in Brazzaville prior to the recent African summit to seek national reconciliation in Chad. He expressed hope that such efforts will continue. He also said that the heads of state and leaders of the delegations at the summit adopted a resolution expressing appreciation of the Congo's efforts to achieve a national reconciliation in Chad and are requesting a continuation of those efforts. He added: I believe that we will continue our attempts to help our Chadian brothers achieve national reconciliation.

Congolese President Departs

NC161526 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the People's Republic of the Congo, left Cairo for Paris this afternoon with his accompanying delegation. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and some ministers saw the Congolese guest off at Cairo Airport.

Tanzanian Defense Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC181231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text]Cairo,(MENA)— Tanzanian Defense Minister Brigadier Muhiddin Kimario arrived in Cairo today on an official 6-day visit at the invitation of Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. An official military reception will be accorded for the Tanzanian defense minister at the Armed Forces' Headquarters tomorrow. The reception will be followed by a session of military talks between Abu Ghazalah and Kimario.

Australian Chief of Staff Arrives for Visit

NC171503 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA) — Australian Chief of Staff Sir Phillip Bennet arrived here from Rome today for a 2-day visit to inspect the Australian unit in the Sinai Multinational Forces. Bennet had visited Sinai last week and was received by Egyptian Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi.

Mubarak Sends Message to Romanian's Ceausescu

NC171403 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following telegram to Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

On the occasion of the convocation of the 13th conference of your struggling party, it gives me pleasure to express to the friendly people of Romania best wishes of success in the performance of the great tasks in which they are engaged — the tasks of construction, achieving progress, consolidatinng the foundations of world peace, and strengthening friendship and cooperation among all nations and peoples.

We in Egypt are very proud of the firm fraternal relations between the two peoples and countries. We look forward to more cooperation and interaction in serving our joint interests and strengthening international cooperation.

Reportage on Combat Operations at Front

'Vigorous Attacks' Carried Out

JN161708 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Communique No 1,652 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 November 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With men who go to battle to defend our rights, sovereignty, and independence, the forces of the great Iraqi people are continuing their brave operations against the rancorous, tyrant enemy forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units carried out vigorous attacks on enemy positions and troop movements east of Basra, inflicting losses in men, weapons, and equipment and creating fires in various enemy positions. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties.

2. One of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration in the central sector of the front, using all types of weapons. Our forces killed two, wounded others, and destroyed one infantry position. One enemy motorcycle was destroyed and its rider killed.

In an operation in the prohibited zone, one of our combat patrol units captured a quantity of serviceable military equipment and evacuated it to the rear.

3. One of our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy personnel in the northern sector, killing one and forcing the others to flee.

4. The tyrant criminals shelled a civilian area in Al-Basrah Governorate this afternoon with heavy artillery. Six shells fell on this area.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 November 1984

'Daring Combat Operation' Reported

JN171638 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) Communique No 1,653 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With the support of almighty God and the determination of staunch men, our valiant Armed Forces continue their courageous activities in the operational sectors by striking the oppressor Iranian enemy forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units carried out a daring combat operation against enemy positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our unit pounded the enemy postions with all types of weapons, inflicting losses in life and equipment. Cries for help were heard in the enemy postions. In another area of the same sector, a group of our hero fighters killed one enemy soldier and destroyed one infantry position and one vehicle.

2. Using artillery and mortars, our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment and destroying one personnel carrier.

3. The criminals shelled a civilian area in Basra's suburbs this morning.

4. Escaping the evil forces ruling in Iran, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 November 1984

Defense Minister Tours Front

JN171937 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Armed Forces deputy cpmmander in chief and defense minister, has inspected one of the operational sectors. He toured our forward defensive positions, saw their capabilities, and inspected their preparedness to confront any enemy eventuality.

A discussion was held between the defense minister and the commanders and staff officers in the sector and appropriate decisions were made to deal with any enemy threat in the near or distant future.

The chief of staff accompanied the defense minister on this tour.

Helicopter Gunships Destroy Boat

JN181637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA) Communique No 1,654 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With a firm Iraqi will and determination to continue scoring victories against the forces of oppression, aggression, and tyranny, our valiant Armed Forces continue their able activities in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. At 1340 today one of our daring helicopter gunship formations pounced on an enemy boat sighted in the Maysan sector which was carrying a medium-caliber machine gun and enemy troops. The valiant knights in our helicopter gunships destroyed the enemy boat and killed its occupants. They returned safely and triumphantly to base with their helicopters, praise be to God.

2. Using artillery and all types of weapons, our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration and enemy positions

opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing or wounding many enemy troops and destroying one infantry position and one observation post.

3. One of our forward units sighted an enemy boat in the operational sector east of Basra, pounded it with all types of weapons, hitting several enemy troops and forcing the enemy boat to flee. Opposite other positions in the same sector, artillery blows were dealt to an enemy troop concentration and positions, destroying one personnel position and hitting its occupants.

4. One infantry position and one weapons emplacement were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. Two vehicles, one large, were hit in the northern sector of the battlefield.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 November 1984

Hasan 'Ali Says Iraq Ready To End War

JN162037 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Ankara, 16 Nov (INA) — RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali has said that Iraq has always been and will continue to be ready to end the war with Iran to restore their effective role in the Islamic arena and contribute to human civilization. In a speech during the final session of the permanent ministerial committee for economic and trade cooperation of the ICO member states here today, he added that wars have always been and will continue to be one of the negative phenomena in the history of mankind. That is why states do not resort to war to settle their differences.

Hasan 'Ali stressed that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war has hampered development in the two countries and affected cooperation among the Islamic states, particularly in the fields of economy and trade. He said that the Iraq-Iran war, which has entered its 5th year and which regional and international mediations have failed to end, has become one of the wars that have affected not only the warring parties, but also threatened international peace and security.

Hasan 'Ali appealed to the members of the committee, which began its meetings 2 days ago with the participation of 35 member states, to intensify their efforts to end this war and stress the need to respond to the resolutions of the ICO summits held in Al-Ta'if and Casablanca.

He added that the issue of international cooperation in general and Islamic cooperation in particular necessitates that we strengthen our determination to end the war and find the means to do so. He stressed that the Islamic world cannot achieve prosperity unless this war stops, thereby freeing the potentials of two Islamic states for development and cooperation.

He said: A secure atmosphere constitutes the cornerstone for turning the [word indistinct] and projects into tangible economic activities in the interest of the Islamic world. He added: This is why we must seriously and continuously work for just and peaceful solutions to clarify the atmosphere in order to restore amity among Islamic states and bolster cooperation among them.

'Ali Returns From Turkey

JN170811 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali returned to Baghdad this morning after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the ICO's permanent committee for economic and trade cooperation, held in Istanbul.

Iran Accused of 'Procrastinating' on POW Issue

JN170814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] United Nations, 17 Nov (INA) — Iraq's UN permanent representative has said that the Iranian regime is procrastinating and resorting to false pretexts to avoid receiving a UN committee in charge of investigating the execution of some Iraqi prisoners of war in an Iranian detention camp last month.

Speaking at a press conference here last night, Dr Riyad al-Qaysi said that these methods are not unexpected from the Iranian regime which uses them to gain time and subsequently foil UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to investigate the conditions of political prisoners in Iraq and Iran.

Dr al-Qaysi expressed his appreciation for the UN secretary general's efforts to convince Iran to fulfill its promises and to allow the UN investigation committee to carry out its mission. He stressed Iraq's welcome of the UN team, adding that this team was formed by the UN secretary general to investigate incidents which occurred in Iran, and not in Iraq, and that it is essential that the committee begin its mission by visiting Iran to investigate the events for which Iraq complained.

Dr al-Qaysi said that the UN committee in charge of investigating the execution of Iraqi prisoners of war in an Iranian detention camp last month was formed on the recommendation of the UN secretary general, who is entitled to adopt a suitable measure toward Iran's refusal to receive the committee.

Ba'th Party Delegation Leaves for Bucharest

JN171050 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, left for Bucharest today at the head of a party delegation to attend the Romanian Communist Party's 13th congress.

'Abd al-Ghafur told INA that the Ba'th Party's participation in the congress is in response to an invitation from the Romanian Communist Party leadership and is an expression of the developed relations between the two friendly peoples and parties. He added that the delegation will convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Nicolae Ceausescu and the friendly Romanian people.

Press Scores Khaddam's Visit to Tehran

JN190827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA) — Two local newspapers have attacked Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's current visit to Tehran, saying that this visit is aimed at plotting against Iraq, the Arab nation, the Palestine question.

In an article, the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* says that the visit is also part of the desperate, feverish attempts to isolate Iraq under the slogan of preventing the expansion of the area of war and to coordinate efforts regarding the Iranian forces' losses in the Sayf Sa'd sector — losses which further aggravated the internal Iranian situation politically, economically, and militarily.

The paper expects the Iranian regime to launch a new offensive in the wake of the visit to Tehran by Khaddam and Al-Shar'. However, the paper emphasizes that the Iraqi forces are ready to crush and wipe out any new aggression. Such an aggression, it adds, will be the last round, during which the enemy's power will be destroyed and its expanionist dreams and ambitions will be buried forever.

The newspaper *AL-QADISIYAH* says that the visit Khaddam and Al-Shar' paid to Tehran cannot be viewed in isolation from the conspiratorial activity to prevent the convocation of the PNC and harm Arab causes in general.

In an article today, the paper says that the Syrian regime has begun a series of contacts. One of those axes was the Iranian regime, with the aim of continuing its plotting against Iraq and the Palestinian resistance.

It adds that Al-Asad and his henchmen know quite well that the next PNC session will adopt a clear and definite stand toward the attempts to impose tutelage on the Palestinian resistance and to continue to dominate the Lebanese affairs.

It stresses that the Iranian regime supports the Syrian rulers' subversive move by antagonizing the PLO and seeking to please the Zionist entity that backs Iran militarily.

Concluding, the paper asserts that the Syrian regime seeks to delude the Arab Gulf countries into believing that the Iranian regime's war against Iraq does not threaten their security.

King Husayn Addresses Graduate Officers

JN181830 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Nov 84

["Text" of lecture by King Husayn at 25th Staff and Command College graduation class, carried within "The Newsreel" program on 18 November — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother officers and esteemed audience: I extend to you warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to you brother officers for having completed the Staff and Command College on this blessed day. It is a good opportunity to meet with you on the day you have completed the graduation requirements in all military sciences and have polished the experience you have gained before joining the Staff and Command College with the various fields of knowledge you studied in this class. You are now prepared to exercise military command and are qualified to assume leading positions in your units.

I am proud and happy to address this elite, which includes many of our brother Arab officers. We are happy that they joined this Jordanian military institute. We also are happy at their presence among us on the soil of steadfast Jordan, the Jordan of all Arabs. Your experience and scientific studies and the responsibilities you will assume when you engage in field action call on me to address you with all amity and frankness on many Arab concerns related to our present Arab state of affairs.

Brother officers, you complete your class as 1984 is about to end. We look around us in the Arab homeland. We see that the principal issues our nation is facing are still as they were 1 year ago. They continue to be acute and complicated.

The colonialist settlement policy on Palestinian land continues to be active. The possibilities of a just settlement of the Middle East issue seem to be more remote. Iran's insistence on its stand of continuing a losing war has not changed, and Arab differences continue to tarnish the Arab atmosphere and to encourage the nation's enemies to pursue their aggression or prepare for new aggression. They even discourage its friends from carrying out an initiative to assist it in a serious manner. They realize that we are at loggerheads over issues on which it is impermissible to differ either because there is a need to reach agreement or because Arab countries are bound by charters dictating the need to unify stands toward it.

We are at variance on a stand toward the Iraqi-Iranian war in spite of the fact that we are members in the Arab League, in which we are bound by a single Arab Charter and a Collective Arab Defense Pact. We are also at variance on Palestinian action to the extent that some of us blatantly and directly interfere in the PLO's affairs, work to divide and dismember it, and encourage its various wings to express allegiance to many parties and trends but not to Palestine. This action by Arab League member countries takes place in broad daylight, by countries which have pledged to abide by resolutions that were adopted at more than one Arab summit and in more than one Arab forum. What is worse is that our brothers continue to interfere in the PLO's affairs in the name of Palestine and to disrupt it into groups and factions in the name of the Palestinian people.

The Arabs also have differed over restoring Egypt to the Arab fold to which it belongs and for which it works. Although everyone stresses the importance of Egypt's position, weight, and people regionally and internationally; although there is a need for the Arabs to pool all available energies and capabilities to confront aggressive plans; although everyone recognizes the sincere pan-Arab trend of the Egyptian leadership and people in deeds and not words; and although all people know that keeping Egypt away from Arab action will only serve Zionist goals and those who intend to spread hegemony over the region, we find that some Arabs take opposing positions and insist on keeping Egypt apart from overall Arab might. At the same time, these Arabs call for the need to mobilize Arab energies and preserve Arab capabilities.

The differences in our ranks have reached the point where the Arabs differ on whether the summit, the highest institution of joint Arab action, is devoted to settling Arab differences or is merely a platform for achieving minimum agreement on issues enjoying Arab consensus. Some Arabs say the summit should be convened only after reaching agreement on the various topics to be discussed; others assert that convening the summit is justified by its responsibility for settling Arab difference under its canopy, and not outside it, in order to reach a responsible Arab stand.

Discussion of this problem points us to another issue that is no less important in terms of soundness of course and method of action. This issue is summed up by the following question: Is it in the interest of joint Arab action if the Arabs continue to adhere to the principle of consensus when making decisions, or should they act in accordance with the principle of majority rule? This issue is still outstanding although everyone is aware of the negative aspects of adhering to the principle of consensus, a principle that has paralyzed the Arab will and frozen joint Arab action after depriving it of its flexibility and ignoring the minority's desire.

In light of these facts, it is natural for the pan-Arab spirit to weaken as a result of certain positions and policies. At the same time, the problems that the Arab nation faces have increased, the priorities have changed, and the Arab nation has entered a vicious cycle. The more serious and complicated the pan-Arab causes become, the more one withdraws within himself. As a result, Pan-Arab problems increase and threaten the Arab nation's future — land, identity, and resources. This course has strengthened all over the Arab hoemalnd, and separation between national security and pan-Arab security is the rule. Some Arab brothers have even supported an aggressive, covetous non-Arab country against a defending, fraternal Arab country. These people have forgotten — and we wish that they would recall — the fact that when the Arabs neglect pan-Arab security, they pave the way for shaking their national security. Any negligence in dealing with any foreign enemy on any Arab land is, in the final analysis, a negligence of every Arab country's security. If this fact applies to any region in the world, it is a cornerstone for the Arab world's security, stability, and development.

Brother officers, development in any country is an integral part of its national security; ultimately, it is an integral part of pan-Arab security. In the fifties and sixties, this fact constituted one of the beacons of joint Arab action. The Arabs entrenched and bolstered development through the Arab common market and by making clear a realistic and practical concept of Arab economic integration. If we look today at this part of the constituents of pan-Arab security, we find that this, too, has not escaped the trends of regional retreat and the carelessness of those who have more wealth and resources toward those who have less. This is as if the negative points of Arab economic and social backwardness can be prevented from spreading by visas and border posts. Indifference to the issue of development in any Arab country is indifference to the issue of the entire Arab world's internal security. In the end, it is indifference to the issue of pan-Arab security.

This destructive manner that has resulted from improvised Arab policies in the fields of development and defense must be redressed and consequently replaced by a sound, pan-Arab manner based on the principles of joint Arab action and Arab economic integration. The bright spot in this dark situation is the Arab peoples' natural and conscious commitment to these basic concepts of the firm connection between national security and Arab economic integration on the one hand and pan-Arab security on the other.

The state of loss and disruption that prevails in the Arab world these days is a natural outcome of the existing separation between these principles and Arab political action. If we are sincere with ourselves and seek to arise and restore our health, then these principles must be reactivated in word and deed in order to become the beacon that guides us to rearrange and unite all Arab potentials in all fields and directions.

Estrangement cannot be an issue of commerce, and withdrawing within oneself cannot be a source of strength. Both of them constitute the secret weapon with which our enemies fight us, be they those who are fighting us or those who lie in wait. We all realize this. However, where does the Arab situation lie from this realization? There is a big gap between what is realized and said and what is done and actually accomplished on the ground. Grievously odious is it in the sight of God that ye say that which you do not. [Koranic verse]

In view of this state of affairs, the Arab world is in dire need of initiating a rational dialogue among its leaders and governments to attain what the people are seriously, genuinely, and spontaneously aspiring for. Let us all realize that dialogue does not always mean immediate agreement and that a difference in viewpoints does not mean brandishing swords in one another's face. Let us reiterate the importance of Arab unity and the need to rebuild Arab solidarity for confronting the challenges that threaten our existence and future, for continuing our efforts to regain our rights and holy places and warding off danger from any part of our great Arab homeland. Let us dissociate political stands from economic cooperation. The first may be an issue for agreement or disagreement in accordance with the interpretation of the party in question. As for the second, it must always remain an issue for agreement, because the Arab people's interests and the inter-relation of these interests are not a transient and debatable issue that can be subject to interpretation or individual judgment. Let us always keep in mind that our national security is part of our pan-Arab security, and the converse is also true.

Brother officers, with such a spirit we have carried the message of the great Arab revolution and have brought up our sons at home, at school, and in the institute. With this spirit, we have dealt and will continue to deal with our brothers. With this spirit, we have outlined our policies and abided by our pledges. With these convictions, we joined the 1967 war and participated in the 1973 war. With this same spirit, we stand beside fraternal Iraq in its legitimate defense of its Arab land and waters. We also state our readiness to come to the assistance of any fraternal Arab Gulf country which may need our assistance. With this spirit, we have resumed our diplomatic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt, and with this same spirit we deal with our brother Palestinians in their organization or on the soil of their homeland. With this spirit, and inspired by the supreme pan-Arab interests, we extend our hands to all the brothers as debaters and not maneuverers, and as advocates of amity, not as back-stabbers.

Brother officers, I would like to reiterate congratulations to you, thanking your instructors for their great devotion, their care, and their efforts to teach you the best. I ask Almighty God to grant you success and guide your steps on the path of good and success. I also ask Almighty God to guide us all, as He is the only one who listens and responds. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Draft Budget Set at 850 Million Dinars

JN171054 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Nov 84 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] Amman, *AL-RA'Y* — The General Budget Department has put the final touches to the draft state budget for fiscal year 1985. It is scheduled to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for discussion within a few days before it is transferred to Parliament according to the constitution.

The budget's initial figures show that it will amount to approximately 850 million dinars, with an increase of about 73.3 million dinars over the 1984 budget. However, endorsment of this figure depends on the government's financial and economic policy, especially since the deficit in next year's budget in light of the current local and external revenue statistics is expected to reach about 70 million dinars, a deficit several times greater than the 17 million dinar deficit expected in the 1984 budget. It was learned that one of the reasons why the budget has not yet been presented to the Council of Ministers despite the lapse of 2 days from 15 November, the date that is constitutionally fixed for the presentation of the budget every year, is the subject of the fuel subsidy. This is expected to ammount to about 40 million dinars, compared to 33 million dinars in this year's budget.

Trade, Cooperation Talks With Pakistan Opened

JN190707 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 84 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — Jordan and Pakistan opened talks in Amman Sunday aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in cultural, technical, economic, trade, technological and air transport fields.

The talks are being conducted through a joint committee which is also discussing the implementation of a bilateral agreement signed in 1978, according to the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning. Dr Ziyad Fariz. He said the committee will continue talks in Amman Monday.

The Pakistani side to the talks, which arrived here Saturday evening includes the secretary general of economic affairs at the Ministry of Trade and Production, other representatives from the Ministry and Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan, Mr Ihsan Ershad. The Jordanian side groups representatives of the ministries of education, planning, industry and trade, labour and the University of Jordan as well as Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and the Royal Scientific Society.

Editorial Views Dead Sea Canal Project

JN190959 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Med-Dead Fails Israel"]

[Text] The Israeli Government is shelving the Med-Dead Sea canal project, or is about to.

The idea of a canal that would draw water from the Mediterranean down into the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, thus helping to produce hydroelectric power, has a "distinguished ancestry" for the Zionist state, the Israelis believe. "The father of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, enshrined it in his visionary novel about a future Jewish state, Altneuland," *THE JERUSALEM POST* newspaper said in an editorial on the subject last week.

So why are the Israelis abandoning the project after several years of research work and preparations that cost them $15m? Economic feasibility and lack of funds are two main reasons of course; but should we not read more into the decision to abandon "for now" the grandiose project?

In supporting his criticism of the plan to build the canal, which was initiated during Menahem Begin's first term in office, the Israeli state comptroller reportedly skirted the political aspects of the project. These were that the canal's planned point of origin was to be in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, which is an occupied Arab territory. Secondly, that by raising the level of the Dead Sea water, the canal would have caused great damage to Jordan's potash industry, as well as involved legal aspects of this encroachment on Arab and international rights.

The decision to shelve the Med-Dead project might have been seen as a gesture of goodwill towards peace and the Arabs by the Peres government had the real intention behind it was indeed that. Instead that government had to admit its predecessor's failure to honour pledges made to "Israel Bonds" buyers who had the impression that the project was going to be a financial success. Nothing about peace there.

The question of Jewish settlements in the West Bank may be similar to this situation soon. So is Lebanon already. Israel would never want to admit that its attitudes of hegemony against the Arabs and its colonisation policies and projects are the source of its economic ills and financial disasters. But all the same. They will have to one day and soon.

Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut Damaged in Bomb Blast

Birri Condemns Incident

NC161925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] A security source said that at 1935 tonight unidentified persons threw a bomb into the grounds of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bi'r Hasan, causing damage to the embassy building. Security officials are investigating. Commenting on the incident, Minister Nabih Birri said: The attack on the Kuwaiti Embassy is viewed as a criminal attack on a fraternal Arab country that treats Lebanon's issues as its own, that rejoices at Lebanon's happiness and grieves at Lebanon's ordeals.

Moreover, the incident is a flagrant attack on the nationalist and Islamic forces in West Beirut, and an attack on Lebanon's dignity. We have instructed the appropriate security authorities to do everything possible to apprehend the culprits. [passage indistinct]

Group Claims Responsibility

NC161947 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Beirut, Nov 16 (AFP) — A bomb exploded tonight at the Kuwaiti Embassy in West Beirut but there were no casualties, police said here. The bomb went off in the embassy garden and caused some damage, they added. No Kuwaiti diplomats were in the building at the time.

The attack was claimed by a man claiming to belong to a hitherto unknown group called the September 17 Organization for the Defence of Palestinians. The massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps by Christian Phalangist militia began here on that date in 1982.

The group said in a telephone call to a news agency here that the bombing was a warning to "dissuade Arab regimes from wronging the Palestinian people." It said the next attack would be on Kuwaiti territory.

Nabih Birri, the minister for southern Lebanon, condemned the attack on what he described as a friendly Arab country "which considers the Lebanese cause as its own."

Al-Husayni Blames Israel

NC171026 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] In a statement today, Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, said that the attack on the Kuwaiti Embassy is part of the Israeli actions aimed at making the Arab brothers halt their urgent aid to Lebanon at this stage in which Lebanon is forging ahead in its plan to liberate the land and beef up its national unity.

Al-Jumayyil Denounces Incident

NC172027 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil made a telephone call to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah tonight. He denounced the incident during which a bomb was thrown at the Kuwaiti Embassy building in Bi'r Hasan. President Al-Jumayyil stressed to the Kuwaiti amir that investigations are underway to uncover the circumstances of this regrettable incident and to punish the culprits.

The telephone call was an opportunity for President Al-Jumayyil and the Kuwaiti amir to exchange views on the current situation in the Arab world as well as on bilateral relations. They agreed to maintain constant contacts to follow up their discussions.

KUNA: Embassy Security Changed

LD171751 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Beirut 17 Nov (KUNA) -- Lebanese military sources said that effective today the Organization for Embassies' Security took over the security of Arab and foreign embassies in Beirut. The sources told KUNA that the Lebanese 6th Brigade Army units, who were protecting foreign institutions withdrew to be replaced by units belonging to the Organization for Embassies Security, which consists of internal and general security forces and some brigades of the Lebanese Army.

The Lebanese Army unit which was protecting the Saudi Embassy has already withdrawn and was replaced by units of the Organization for Embassies' Security.

Al-Naqurah Negotiations Resume; Divergent Views

NC191015 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Dispatch from Antoine 'Awn, National Information Agency correspondent in Al-Naqurah — live]

[Excerpts] The third round of the Lebanese-Israeli military talks began at 1000 this morning under the auspices of the United Nations, which is represented by a delegation led by General William Callaghan.

Prior to the start of today's session, Staff Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj told reporters that no specified points will be raised, that Lebanon's stand is clear and firm, and that there is no need for repetition.

The Israeli spokesman recalled that his country is committed to the following:

1. The Israeli Army units will remain in Lebanon until measures acceptable to Israel, that guarantee the safety of the northern border are implemented. We are here, the spokesman said, to examine and find practical solutions and ways to apply such measures. Until then, our troops will remain in Lebanon.

2. UNIFIL can enter the areas that the Israeli Army may evacuate. This principle was applied in 1978, and could be a basis for the security measures that we are now seeking. The primary UNIFIL units can deploy, as we explained, north of the area where Israel is present.

3. The Lebanese Army and the local armed forces in the south constitute an additional aspect to the Lebanese measures, and the areas where they will be deployed. [sentence as heard] The way to do this will be discussed today.

Talks Recessed

NC191130 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The first round of the third session of the Al-Naqurah negotiations ended at noon. Members of the delegations will be the guests at a lunch to be hosted by UNIFIL Commander William Callaghan.

A Lebanese military spokesman said there were positive aspects in the Israeli stand on withdrawals. Regarding the security arrangements in the south, the spokesman said: Lebanon does not act as the policeman for anybody. It cares only about peace and the Lebanese people's security. Concerning the method of deployment of the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese side explained that the Army is acceptable to all and that the southerners' stand is positive.

The Lebanese delegation presented a military deployment plan. The Israeli delegation asked about details. The questions regarding the deployment from the Al-Awwali and up to the Lebanese-Israeli border were clearly answered.

Concerning the alternatives if the Al-Naqurah discussions fail, the Lebanese delegation said: We are very optimistic.

The Israeli delegation categorically rejected Lebanon's demand for the payment of $10 billion in reparations for the damages caused by the Israeli operation in Lebanon. Israel refused to release detainees and open crossing points for good because of the continuation of the operations against its Army.

Israeli sources pointed out that if Lebanon insists on its stand, then Israel would discuss the possibility of unilaterally adopting security arrangements in the south.

Amal Movement Official Faqih Released by Israelis

Arrives at Birri Residence

NC161709 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1658 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Mahmud Faqih, the Amal movement official responsible for the south, arrived at Minister Nabih Birri's residence a short while ago following his deportation by the Israeli authorities. Faqih joined the Amal movement's Political Bureau meeting, which has been in progress for 2 hours. It is believed that a statement will be issued by the Political Bureau about Amal's stand on his deportation.

Plans Return to South

NC170800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] With regard to Israel's arbitrary actions in the occupied areas, the occupation forces yesterday deported [ab'adat] Mahmud Faqih, the organizational officer in the Amal movement in the south. Upon arriving in Beirut yesterday evening, Faqih said that he is committed to the Amal movement's decision to return to the south irrespective of the price. Faqih, who was detained in the Mar Ilyas detention camp east of Sidon, said that an Israeli official notified him about the decision to deport him. Faqih was then transported by an intelligence services car that stopped near a Lahd militia barracks and then proceeded to the Batir roadblock. From there, a car belonging to the Progressive Socialist Party transported him to the Amal movement headquarters and then to the house of the Amal movement leader on Barbur street.

There, Faqih met with Minister Birri and a number of Amal movement leaders and apprised them of the details of his interrogation and the manner in which he was deported to Beirut.

Minister Birri then held a news conference in the presence of Faqih. Birri said that Faqih will return to the south whether Israel likes it or not, because the decision to deport him from the south is contrary to the [contacts] made to secure his release together with his colleagues. Minister Birri said that this is a clear indication of Israel's expansionist intentions and that Israel entered into the [Al-Naqurah] talks — even though under the pressure of the blows dealt it by the resistance — to achieve its ambitions.

Faqih said that he will return to the south to continue the struggle together with his brothers there. Faqih will hold a news conference at Birri's office in Barbur at noon today.

Thanks Al-Jumayyil For Assistance

NC171100 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Mahmud Faqih visited the republican palace accompanied by Dr Ayyub Humayyid. They thanked President Amin al-Jumayyil for the efforts he exerted to secure the release of Faqih and his colleagues. Faqih made the following statement:

[Begin Faqih recording] I came to thank his excellency the president of the Republic and the government for the efforts made to secure my release. This action by the state was coupled with popular pressure, which expressed the best and most splendid uprising by all the sects of the sons of the south. This uprising will achieve the national unity which is the only way of ending the Israeli occupation of the south.

I asked his excellency to continue his efforts to secure my return to the south and to raise the issue of all detainees in the Israeli enemy detention camps. I also stressed the importance of opening the coastal road so as to dispel all the fears of our people in the south, the fears of sedition and of what the enemy is planning for the future. I also briefed him on the investigations and interrogations that took place during my detention. [end recording]

Discusses Arrest by Israelis

NC171604 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1508 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The top political official of the Amal movement in south Lebanon, Mahmud Faqih, held a press conference at the headquarters of the Amal movement in Beirut today in the presence of the Political Bureau President 'Akif Haydar, at which he discussed details of his arrest by the Israeli authorities and his ultimate deportation to Beirut.

Faqih told newsmen how he was blindfolded and then taken by Israeli troops, who accused him of mounting operations against the Israeli forces.

Faqih said that he was interrogated by a number of top Israeli officials, including General Shlomo (Olea), the commander of the Northern Front, and Uri Lubrani, the Israeli coordinator of Lebanon's affairs. He was questioned on Amal plans for the security of the south and urged to cooperate with the Israeli authorities. He was told that Israel considered the Amal movement and Minister Birri for being behind the abrogation of the May 17 agreement. Lubrani requested that military operations in the south stop while talks were underway. He indicated that Israel was interested in reaching an agreement with the Shi'ites and in helping to protect them from various enemies.

Faqih responded that the Shi'ites were not allowed to cooperate with the Israelis because their convictions were opposed to such a move. He declared that the Shi'ite community in the south is not interested in being protected by Israel or its forces and wanted the Lebanese Army and the United Nations forces to handle security in the south and in west Al-Biqa'.

The Amal official stressed the need for him to be sent to Ansar Camp, but the Israeli authorities did not send him. He was later notified that they had decided to release him and deport him from the south.

Faqih thanked President Al-Jumayyil and the government for suspending the Al-Naqurah talks, and he thanked all those who had participated in protests and strikes to secure his release and the release of his colleagues who were detained by Israel.

Faqih Reports Many Detainees in Ansar Camp

NC171820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Speaking at a news conference today, Mahmud Faqih, the organization official of the Amal Movement in the south, said that between 700 and 730 Amal Members had been detained and that about 645 of them are in Ansar camp.

Birri Cables UN on Sniping at Ansar Camp Detainees

NC171810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has received a message from Ansar detainees confirming that the Israeli enemy is resorting to sniping at the detainees inside the camp. The message said that on 11 November 1984 one detainee was killed by the occupation forces and that four others had been killed by sniping before then. Hence, the detainees have become a target for the Israeli occupation forces.

Minister Birri has sent cables to the United Nations and to the Arab and international human rights committees about this serious matter, reminiscent of the Nazi detentions. He asked the humanitarian institutions to carry out an immediate investigation.

Beirut on Junblatt-Bartholomew Meeting

NC170714 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt yesterday received U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, with former Minister Hamadah attending. Sources close to Junblatt said that Junblatt spoke to Bartholomew about his apprehensions regarding the plan for the deployment of the Army in Iqlim al-Kharrub and on the coastal road. He also expressed his wish that Washington change its former policy toward the Lebanese parties — the policy that accompanied the negotiations that led to the 17 May agreement.

A source close to Minister Walid Junblatt said that during the meeting a comprehensive review was made of the general situation and that the discussions dealt in detail with the situation in the south and with expediting the security plan for the coastal line. It was emphasized that this plan should not be only for the coastal line but for the south also and that anything that might cause problems in the areas through which the Army enters should be avoided.

Junblatt Receives Soviet, Algerian Ambassadors

NC181256 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt, before noon today received at Al-Mukhtarah Palace Soviet Ambassador Soldatov and members of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. The situation in Lebanon in general and the current developments were discussed during the meeting.

Junblatt also received Algerian ambassador in Lebanon Abdelkrim Gharib.

Junblatt Threatens to Resign From Government

GF171906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1842 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Beirut, 17 Nov (WAKH) — A responsible source in the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, led by Minister Walid

Junblaatt, has said that Junblatt intends to submit his resignation from the national salvation government due to its failure to accomplish the national demands agreed upon in Lusanne and the ministerial declaration of this government. The socialist official, in a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Beirut, accused the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army of being responsible for the continuing explosion in the mountain area and of shelling the mountain villages inhabited by a Druz majority.

It is worth mentioning that Mr Junblatt occupies the post of minister of public works, transport, and tourism in the present Lebanese Government.

Junblatt Reportedly Fears Assassination Plot

NC182021 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpts] George Hawi, member of the Democratic National Front led by Walid Junblatt, said that Junblatt does not want to stay in the government and that for some time he has been affirming his desire to resign. Hawi said the real reason for Junblatt not attending Cabinet meetings is that he is convinced there is a plot to assassinate him.

Various Aspects of Security Situation Viewed

Al-Jumayyil Holds Contacts

NC161830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Official circles have focused their attention on the country's security and political affairs. Intensive meetings and contacts were held to calm the disturbed security situation in the mountain and to clarify the second round of the military talks in Al-Naqurah.

President Amin al-Jumayyil led the political move to deal with the deteriorating situation in the mountain and had several contacts with security and political leaders to halt this deterioration. Al-Jumayyil was also briefed on the results of the second round of talks between the Lebanese and Israeli military delegations in Al-Naqurah.

The president also followed up the Military Council's meeting at the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi, chaired by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. The council's meeting is an implementation of the Cabinet's recent decisions calling on the Army to maintain security in greater Beirut, along the coastal highway from Al-Madfun to Al-Awwali, in Iqlim al-Kharrub, west Al-Biqa', Rashayya, and the south.

The Military Council will resume its meetings later.

Amal Voices Cabinet Support

NC171230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The Amal movement political bureau held its periodic meeting today under its chairman, Colonel 'Akif Haydar. The topics on the agenda dealt with the regime's decisions with regard to the security plan, the military talks at al-Naqurah, and the detention of the movement leaders in the south. The conferees discussed the results of the general strike that was observed by the south. They conducted an indepth analysis of the dimensions and meaning of the strike on a national level. At the end of the meeting, the following statement was issued:

The Amal movement political bureau notes with satisfaction the Cabinet's decisions which aim to deploy the legitimate Army forces on the coastal line extending from Al-Madfun to Al-Awwali. The bureau expresses its support for this important step and hopes that this initiative will lead to the expansion of the deployment of the legitimate authority over all the homeland as soon as possible. The political bureau believes that the assignment of the 6th Brigade and the Internal Security Forces to preserve security in West Beirut — a step that the movement has repeatedly advocated — should be followed by the arming of this brigade and the reinstatement of the officers and soldiers who left the brigade for known reasons.

The movement affirms its full material and moral support for the legitimate authority in Beirut and [the southern] suburb, urging sensible people not to be involved in one-upmanship over Beirut security or to believe the tendentious campaigns that are being organized by the agent media or the enemy agents to create a state of continuous anxiety that would prevent us from focusing our attention toward liberating our land.

Military Council Meeting

NC171328 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The weekly meeting between President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami was held at B'abda Palace at 1210 today. The meeting ended at 1245. President al-Jumayyil then chaired a meeting of the Military Council which Prime Minister Karami attended.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording][Karami]The meeting with the Military Council was held to acquaint ourselves with the atmosphere and with what it is needed to prepare the capabilities and to do everything necessary to implement the Cabinet's decisions. At this juncture, I must recall that our's is a national march that requires that all citizens prepare themselves to help and to lend support, because the matter concerns the entire Lebanese people. The liberation of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya is a sacred duty. Therefore, we must do everything we can to carry out this duty. The Army has been charged with this task as well as with ensuring security in Beirut. The government's decision was clear. It asked the gunmen and all the forces and organizations to withdraw so as to give the authorities a chance to carry out their duty. Therefore, we say that the Army has been charged with securing the coastal road up to Al-Awwali in preparation for deploying in the south to replace the Israeli forces whenever the withdrawal takes place. The Army's rear — the capital, Beirut

— must inspire confidence and reassurance to enable the Army to respond to the call of duty and play the role it is required to play in the best manner.

For this reason, I said that we are now in a position that requires an appeal to all citizens to be aware of their responsibilities and to join this national march, which requires that everyone cooperate, irrespective of previous sensitivities and disputes. The liberation of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya is a trust we hold and, therefore, we must cooperate to carry out this responsibility.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, in light of the encouraging atmosphere about which you have spoken, when do you expect the practical implementation of this security plan, whether in Beirut or on the coastal line?

[Karami] The Army is preparing itself and is forming the forces that will be required to carry out this task. We are prepared to start the implementation process as soon as possible. I hope that this will not take more than 1 week or a little longer.

[Reporter] Do you expect the military escalation that takes place every now and then to affect the implementation of these plans?

[Karami] I believe that everyone is aware of the current phase and the stable atmosphere and close cooperation it requires. As I have said, the liberation of the south is a general national responsibility. Therefore, I do not believe that such eruptions could affect the liberation process.

[Reporter] Are contacts taking place on this level to control the situation in this respect, both internally and on the Beirut-Damascus road, for example?

[Karami] I have addressed everyone so that all may realize the consequences that could result from procrastination by any one of us in contributing to the liberation task. For this reason, contacts are continuing, and we are confident that these contacts will succeed and bear fruit on all levels.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, a report was published today saying that you will be going to Damascus next week. Is this true?

[Karami] I have said that I am prepared to visit Damascus at any time, whenever a date is set. [end recording]

Iqlim al-Kharrub Rejects Army

NC180705 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] This weekend is one of extreme anxiety as the citizens fear that the plan to deploy the Army on the coastal line and in Iqlim al-Kharrub could possibly create a precarious security situation if the Army's entry into these areas does not coincide with the withdrawal of the military and political presence of the Phalangists from Iqlim al-Kharrub, rendering it free from the outsiders who came from Juniyah, Kasrawan, and other areas under the control of the facist Phalangists.

Popular national sources in Iqlim al-Kharrub expressed opposition to the Army's entry into their area lest it become another Suq al-Gharb. The sources believe that their relentless struggle against the Phalangist military and political plan and against the policy of oppression and backwardness persistently pursued by the regime in Iqlim al-Kharrub was and still is a popular demand for attaining a homeland where justice and equality should be the prominent features. Hence, it is impermissible that the Army should enter Iqlim without stamping out the roots of sedition and the Phalangist hegemony and before an understanding has been reached with regard to the Army's role and tasks and to the security forces' ineffective [as heard] role.

The same sources reiterated their complete adherence to the stand of the Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt — a stand that defends Iqlim's land and people and its national stand. The sources also announced their commitment to any plan that would lead to the liberation of the south from the Israeli forces.

Al-Huss on Security

NC190600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss has declared that the reopening of the coastal road is a must, regardless of whether the Al-Naqurah negotiations succeed or fail. He added: If this road is not opened to the legitimate Lebanese forces, the Lebanese authorities will not be able to play an effective role in defusing the mines of intrigue that Israel might plant in the areas it occupies in the hope that they will go off when it evacuates.

Dr al-Huss added: The rectification of the security situation in Beirut can only succeed if the regular forces — the Army and Internal Security Forces — take up the reins of security in a full and effective way.

Al-Huss, PSP Leaders Discuss Current Issues

NC171636 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1508 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Education and Labor Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met at noon today at his residence with former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, who are also key aides of Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, and member of the party's leadership, Akram Ruhayyim. Minister al-Huss discussed with his visitors the political and security issues, especially those related to the implementation of the Cabinet's decisions concerning of the opening of the coastal highway, the implementation of security in Beirut and Iqlim al-Kharrub.

After the meeting, Hamadah stated that the discussions had covered all the political and security issues being dealt with currently. He said that the meeting was one of the continuous coordination meetings with Minister al-Huss and the different national leaderships and that the outcome for these meetings was directed at the implementation of stabilizing the conditions in Beirut and securing the moves for speeding up the liberation of the south, besides the implementation of the Cabinet's decisions.

Asked whether they dealt with the deployment of the Army in Iqlim al-Kharrub, Hamadah pointed out that this subject was in the hands of the Military Council and was expected to be presented to the political leadership.

Karami Comments on Liberation, Al-Naqurah Talks

NC182004 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami said at a luncheon held in his honor in Tripoli today that the first duty of the Lebanese people is to liberate their land after liberating themselves, because the two are inseparable. Prime Minister Karami said the liberation of the land depends on our will, on our planning, and on carrying out the duty and not evading it. We are witnesses to a heroic national resistance which deserves our appreciation, respect, and support. However, unless military strength is backed by political strength and unless each one works in his own field to complement the work of the other, our attempts to bring about the withdrawal of the enemy will be in vain.

Prime Minister Karami added: We have embarked on the talks in Al-Naqurah, and we bear our responsibility in full, because we feel that everything is proceeding according to the principles and lines we have drawn for our activity. We are holding the talks under the armistice agreement and through the Armistice Commission in Al-Naqurah — the place where this commission has been meeting since the armistice was signed in 1949 and until 1982. The talks are being held under the auspices of the United Nations. If all this has been achieved, how can we object to going to Al-Naqurah to discuss the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from our sacred land?

Prime Minister Karami said: I am optimistic that we will reach at the appropriate time — and I hope this will not be too long — the day when we will celebrate the day of real evacuation, the day of complete sovereignty, the day of the reconsecration of our independence, so that this people can remain the symbol of strength, dignity, and vigor.

Hawi Views Syrian Position on Middle East Issues

JN190947 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Beirut, 19 Nov (SANA) — George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has said: We are confident that Syria will tackle the Middle East issue and the Palestine question in particular in exactly the same way as it is tackling the Lebanese national issue.

In an interview with the Lebanese English-language weekly *MONDAY MORNING* published today, Hawi explained that Syria will reject any bargaining that jeopardizes the substance of the Palestinian people's legitimate demands as well as of the Arab legitimate stands on solving the region's crisis.

Hawi said that if the Al-Naqurah military negotiations succeed in withdrawing the Israeli forces from Lebanon without any gains and conditions, this would tip the balance in favor of the Syrian solution to the Middle East crisis — in other words, a balanced, comprehensive solution based on justice and achieved through an international conference under the joint international supervision of the USSR and the United States and within the framework of the United Nations.

The secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party said that his last visit to Damascus had contributed to deepening the ties of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Lebanese Communist Party.

Hawi said that the meetings among the Lebanese parties in the Syrian capital have contributed and are contributing to deepening the bases of coordination between the Lebanese National Democratic Front and Damascus, and also between the Front and the Amal movement, which helps in approaching the political solution in Lebanon rationally.

PSP Radio Criticizes Regime's Practices

NC170633 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpts] No sooner had the Cabinet adopted its recent decisions — decisions that gave rise to optimism and somewhat alleviated the tension of the citizens — than the regime started to back down on these decisions. The regime signaled to its Army personnel in Suq al-Gharb and to its Phalangists to pound the mountain towns and villages with various types of weapons yesterday afternoon.

This conflagration by the renegade regime is just a new attempt to circumvent and obstruct the security march on which the citizens are pinning hope as a result of the Cabinet decisions. The regime's new actions also aim to obstruct the Army from entering the south and from carrying out its national duty. The regime wants the Army to protect the regime's institutions at the expense of the homeland and the citizens.

Based on past experience, political circles cast doubt in the regime's ability to implement all that is bound to push forward the wheel of security and stability, particularly since this regime no longer enjoys prestige due to its practices.

PSP Official Views Syrians as 'Occupation' Force

NC172233 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Tariq Shihab, deputy Progressive Socialist Party leader, has affirmed that his party and its leader, Walid Junblatt, recognize the fact that Israel and Syria are occupation forces which must leave Lebanon as soon as possible. Shihab said that President Al-Asad has promised the Lebanese president and Walid Junblatt to withdraw his forces after Israel's departure; however, if Al-Asad does not honor his promise then we will fight against the Syrian occupation forces exactly as the national resistance forces are fighting in the south against the Israeli Army.

Fadlallah Addresses Hezbollah Rally in Ba'labakk

NC190745 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] His eminence scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah addressed a rally held in Ba'labakk at the invitation of the Hezbollah [party of God] and the Islamic Resistance Front. He affirmed the need for people to understand their soul and live with it. He also stressed that the idea of Islam is not a vague concept because Islam solves the problems of life.

Scholar Fadlallah affirmed that the issue of Israel's existence in the area is not only an issue of an occupation of a land but is also one of an occupation of a future and an occupation of history. He indicated that the occupation can be resisted. However, because Israel is strong, there must be cooperation with everyone who fights Zionism in the world.

RFL: Committee Reportedly Formed With Libya

NC161735 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Press reports derived from informed sources indicate that a joint Lebanese-Libyan committee was formed when President Amin al-Jumayyil visited Libya and met with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to continue the contacts between the two countries concerning local and regional conditions.

On the Lebanese side the committee includes Lebanese presidential emissary to Libya Milad al-Qarih; Dr Antoine Ghusayn; and Colonel Muhammad Zaydan. The committee has held a number of meetings and met with Al-Qadhdhafi last Wednesday.

The reports further indicate the possibility of a new meeting between Lebanese and Libyan leaders in light of these current contacts.

New Organization Reported in West Beirut

NC171217 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The so-called Shakir al-Barjawi has set up a new organization which he called the Corrective Movement of the 6th February uprising [al-harakatu al-tashihiyah lintifadat al-sadis min shubat]. He has taken up positions in Qasqas, on Hamad street and the edge of Sabra, in Mahattat al-Dana, and in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah. The so-called Al-Barjawai receives financial and military assistance from the Junblattis.

Southern Imam Shaykh al-Amin Dies From Wounds

NC191214 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Scholar Shaykh 'Abd al-Latif al-Amin, who had been shot by Israeli intelligence, succumbed to his wounds yesterday.

President Al-Asad Interviewed by French Radio

LD182001 Paris Domestic Service in French 1105 GMT 18 Nov 84

["Facing the Public" program presented by Gilbert Denoyan of Paris Domestic Service — date not given]

[Text] [Begin Recording] [Denoyan] Today we have an exceptional "Facing the Public" recorded in Damascus with Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Mr President, good day. Thank you for receiving us in Damascus in your presidential palace when celebrations for national restoration are being held to mark the 14 years which you have spent as head of the Syrian people.

In 1 week exactly, a French head of state will make an official visit for the first time to your country, and the visit by Francois Mitterrand to Damascus is already an important event in its own right. To understand better the importance of this visit, to pinpoint more exactly Syrian policy in that region and in its relations with France, we are going to ask you about the situation in the Middle East, about what you expect of France, and also about your difficulties with Yasir 'Arafat and the thorny problem of terrorism.

To ask questions we have around this table: Paul Balta of *LE MONDE*, Dominique Bromberger of French Television 1; Paul-Marie de la Gorce of *LE FIGARO*, Alain Chalveron of Paris International Service and Ralph Pinto of Paris Domestic Service.

It is traditional Mr President, to begin this program with a question about the news of the day. Now, the news today is a demonstration in the streets of Paris by French people of the Jewish faith against the situation in which Syrian Jews find themselves. Syrian Jews, it is reported, are forbidden to hold posts in the administration or to enter the Army, and do not enjoy the same rights to free movement as other Syrian citizens. I ask you, Mr President, what is your answer to those who level accusations against Syria?

[Al-Asad in Arabic with simultaneous translation] Welcome to Damascus and also I would like to welcome President Mitterrand who is to visit us shortly. Your question relating to French Jews demonstrating in Paris in favor of Syrian Jews, is naturally not a question of ordinary French citizens, but is a political movement, world politics, which concerns Zionism. Zionism is a racist movement. In our view, and in the view of the world — because this has been incarnated in UN resolutions — this movement, by which I mean Zionism, inspires certain people in France and in other countries to adopt such attitudes. This proves in a decisive manner the aggressive spirit — and this aggressive spirit is racist — that Zionism is trying to spread throughout the world and above all in the ranks of the citizens of the Jewisih faith in various countries of the world.

The Jews of Syria are Syrian Jews and Syria alone is concerned with their affairs; it is not the French or American Jews who are concerned with the Syrian Jews. We, in Syria, we are not responsible for the French Jews. We are not responsible either for the American Jews; America is responsible for them. The same applies to the other countries of the world. Attempts such as these constitute gross interference and provocation, an interference in the internal affairs of Syria, and are prejudicial to all the Jews of the world, not just to Syrian Jews, for it constitutes a dangerous precedent in the world.

You, as French citizens, you do not want to see anyone else interfering in your internal affairs, except French people, whether they be Jews, Moslems, Christians, or whatever their creed may be. The same applies to us in Syria, and to anywhere else in the world. It is clear that such actions are not in the interest of the Jews in those countries. If that was a rule, we too should have a say in the situation of Jews in France, in the situation of the Christians in France, all the various religious sects — Moslems in France, for example — and in a similar way you should do the same in respect to Christians in Syria, Muslims in Syria, Jews in Syria, and so on in the other countries of the world.

The Jews in Syria are Syrian citizens who have exactly the same rights as Syrians and the majority of these citizens have fewer obligations than the other Syrian citizens. Naturally, they study in our schools, in our universities; some of them are state civil servants; others have various free activities, liberal functions. You have perhaps seen their commerce here in Damascus. As far as the Army is concerned, it goes without saying that not all Syrian citizens do military service. In conformity with the law which has existed in this country for many years, there are certain citizens who are not admitted into the Army. That applies to various faiths. With regard to military service, I do not think that the Jewish citizens, of whom there are only 4,000 in the whole of Syria — and the majority, half of which are women, or even a little more than half...no one has ever asked them to serve in the Army. When I have a request addressed to me regarding this, of course I will examine it.

[Denoyan] Mr President, there is also another aspect of Syria's attitude, which perhaps creates what could be described as a negative image of Syria in France, and that is terrorism. Now, you know that the name of Syria has been linked with acts of terrorism against French interests, attacks which cost the life of the French ambassador, Delamare, the attack in the Rue Marboeuf in Paris, and the explosion at the French military headquarters in Beirut. Syria has of course, rejected all responsibility in these matters, but many French people think that Syria at least knew about the existence of these plots against France and perhaps might have prevented them. You have one of the most remarkable intelligence services in the region. So I would like to ask you, what your reply is to those who believe that by your silence you covered for these actions?

[Al-Asad] I already was asked this by the French media on more than one occasion. I can say with sureness and certainty that Syria knew nothing about these problems except for what we read in the press, of course. If we are present in Lebanon, it does not mean we know everything and that it is our duty to collect all information about every event that occurs in Lebanon. In our country, there are events which we know nothing about in advance and so cannot prevent them. Similarly, in your country the French Government may have much information, a lot of intelligence, but despite that, events occur in your country, be it assassinations or explosions and one waits a long time to identify the authors of these acts. The things that are said and written about this problem are intended to prejudice Franco-Syrian relations and enter in the sphere of a hostile campaign against Syria. If we reflect for a moment, we will see that Syria has no interest whatever in such actions.

[Unidentified speaker interrupting]...terrorist actions, terrorism, I would say, as a means of action for any cause whatsoever.

[Al-Asad] Certainly. Terrorism is condemnable, but when you speak of terrorism it is to remind people that terrorism is something really dangerous. However, one should also speak about national resistance against aggression by any country to remind the citizens of countries whose territories are occupied, that national resistance against aggressors is a sacred duty supported by all the free men in the world. We are against terrorism in its totality, but are on the side of national resistance in every homeland and country of the world. And we are against all aggressions.

[Bromberger] Mr President, Francois Mitterrand will visit Syria in a week, but for several weeks now Dr Rif'at al-Asad has resided in France. There was a reorganization of public authorities in Syria. You, yourself issued a decree laying down the functions of the vice president. He, nevertheless, remains abroad. Your minister of defense even said once that he was persona non grata in Syria. I would like to know if he will return to Syria for Mitterrand's visit.

[Al-Asad] In all cases these are internal affairs to be settled within the party leadership. No one told us that France was encumbered by the presence of Rif'at al-Asad on French soil. These things happened when I was ill, which provoked deep perplexity and anxiety in the country and a much greater anxiety among numerous officials. This anxiety and its consequences made the measures we took necessary, about which you heard. We took no measures of an exceptional nature. Rif'at al-Asad remains vice president of the Republic and no one in Syria can say the contrary. You said you recalled the vice president of the Republic saying something different. No. No one in Syria said Rif'at al-Asad is no longer vice president of the Republic. The moment when the leadership decides he is no longer vice president of the Republic, a decree will stipulate it. This is in conformity with the laws in force in our country.

[Denoyan] Let us now take, Mr President, the visit of Francois Mitterrand to your country in 1 week. The first question is by Paul Balta.

[Balta] Mr President, at a previous meeting you emphasized the fact that there was a unified whole in the region which the mandatory powers split into different states — Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, etc. You added, and I quote: Begin keeps on saying and repeating that Europe has a historic responsibility with regard to the Jewish people.

I could say that France has a historic responsibility with regard to the Syrian people. You added at that time that you wished to meet President Mitterrand, not to talk about the past, but to discuss the present to construct the future. The president is coming. In the light of the analysis that you made, what do you expect from this visit, from this meeting, in concrete terms?

[Al-Asad] Paul Balta refers to a previous meeting. I do not know why Europe is supposed to have a particular responsibility for the Jews. The Jews, as I just said, are in their countries and the governments of their respective countries are responsible for them. As we said, France was present in our countries and that naturally imposes a special responsibility on it. We should remember that when France entered our countries they were united; when it left, they were disunited. That does not mean that we are asking France to make good on all the past errors; but it is normal that we should ask it to try and remember this history so that it might contribute as much as possible, and in measure with its means to improve the situation and the existing factors of development in our countries. It does not enter my head that this will be one of the topics I will discuss with President Mitterrand. Naturally, it is quite possible that in the course of our conversations we will end up talking about numerous and different things from those we are thinking about now, be it in Syria, or in France on the part of President Mitterrand and the French leaders. Naturally, we expect to reach positive results after this meeting. We are even optimistic; if we speak about the past, it is to extract everything from it that could give impetus to our future relations. We will of course, discuss all the problems of the region and of course discuss certain situations prevailing in Europe or in the world. However, we did not agree to deal with delimited well-defined, topics — topics which alone would be dealt with during our meeting.

[Unidentified speaker] I am sure, Mr President, in any event, you will speak about Lebanon because the French Government acknowledged in a statement the particular interests of Syria in Lebanon, and because Syria intervened on several occasions in Lebanon in a manner sometimes favorable to the Christian community, sometimes favorable to other communities, later on, and both countries — France and Syria — have a direct interest, Syria in particular, in the situation in Lebanon. Can you describe to me how you see the solution to the (?most pressing) current problems in Lebanon? Are you interested in a reform of the Constitution, or a change in the structures of the Lebanese state? What is your opinion on this?

[Al-Asad] Without a doubt we will talk about the situation in Lebanon and I entirely understand France's preoccupation with this topic. France too understands perfectly that there are historical and geographical ties between Syria and Lebanon. We made many sacrifices for many years for Lebanon, but we never sided with one party against another in Lebanon. We were always on the side of all Lebanese. We were always against the [illegible] that tried to impose solutions by means of fighting or by weapons. That is why, as you see, from time to time we are [illegible] one party rather than by another.

Our attachment to Lebanon derives from the fact that there was a unity between the peoples of our countries and we have families in common. Naturally, we also share a common history. However, this does not go against the fact that we are two independent states. When we went to Lebanon, we did it at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and also at the request of the people. This was affirmed by the Lebanese. The highest-ranking official, that is to say the Presidnet of the Republic at the time, said this publicly and on more than one occasion.

The situation in Lebanon requires a national entente, and that is what we are working for and trying to bring about at present. We contributed toward holding a conference for the different Lebanese groupings in Switzerland, and we subsequently contributed to various meetings between the Lebanese people on Lebanese soil. A government of national unity was established, and it reached agreement on a certain number of reforms, some which have been carried out, and the remainder are still being discussed. The most important thing, as far as we are concerned, is that the reforms should be made in an atmosphere of entente, by means of dialogue, and not by means of weapons. In my view, everyone who cares about Lebanon and the Lebanese people should have this same attitude. I recall that we had contacts, correspondence, and messages with French officials on this problem in 1976. I do not need to recall those who delivered these messages between the two governments, French and Syrian; there were no disagreements between us at that time.

[Unidentified speaker] President Mitterrand has been in power for a little more than 3 years and in the course of these 3 years his government was attacked frequently by Syrian media. You will remember the visit to Israel, the French presence in Beirut, the departure of the Palestinians under the French umbrella, and then let us mention it, both countries at one point were even on the verge of war, during the Super Etendard raid on Ba'labakk. Now, do you draw a definitive line under these conflicts and were you aware that both countries were really on the verge of a very serious conflict?

[Al-Asad] You mean between Syria and France, do you not?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Al-Asad] About the situation in Lebanon?

[Unidentified speaker] Essentially.

[Al-Asad] In any case, what is important is not to talk about the past unless one can extract something useful from it as an impetus for future action. We will discuss the Lebanese situation in the light of what is useful, what is in the interest of Lebanon, and what is in our interest, as we understand it, of course. Even if we are in disagreement on the stands taken in the past, it does not mean that we will always maintain those positions, unless it is to discuss them with a view to removing their negative points.

[Pinto] Mr President, still on Lebanon, you support President al-Jumayyil. He came to see you, but you also receive many who do not like him at all — those who often make terrible statements against him. Do you advise them to follow him because he is still the president of all the Lebanese, or do you think he does not sufficiently play his role as president, or do you consider the Lebanese formula at present unsuitable for the Lebanese and Syrians?

[Al-Asad] I said a short time ago that the discussions concerned France and Syria and not Syria and Lebanon. With regard to Lebanon, we deal with the Lebanese Government which represents the totality of the Lebanese people. The Lebanese president represents the totality of the Lebanese people. The Lebanese president represents all the Lebanese. We can not consider him the president of a given party in Lebanon. We deal with him and help him on this same basis, while taking into consideration the circumstances of this civil war which has lasted many years. Naturally it requires dialogue, it necessitates a dialogue and it requires the brothers of Lebanon and the friends of Lebanon to help it in this dialogue. It is thus, that we try to help Lebanon in its totality, and the Lebanese president.

[Denoyan] Mr President, what future do you see for Lebanon, what form should Lebanon have, and within what borders?

[Al-Asad] Lebanon must be an independent, sovereign country inside its internationally recognized borders, according to the formula agreed by the different Lebanese factions. This formula is the subject of the dialogue at the moment between the Lebanese parties. It is more-or-less the previous formula, with modifications on which they agree — the interested parties, that is.

[Denoyan] The Israeli Army is in the south, the Syrian Army is in al-Biqa'. When and how do you see these two armies leaving Lebanese territory?

[Al-Asad] You, of course, are talking about the Israeli Army in the south, aren't you, because I thought you meant the Lebanese Army? No, it's...

[Denoyan interrupting] No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no — it is the Syrian Army which I mean.

[Al-Asad] Of course, if you are making a parallel between the two armies, we cannot understand this, whether in Syria or in the Arab homeland.

[Denoyan] There are two foreign armies on Lebanese soil. When will they leave, in your view?

[Al-Asad] I haven't finished talking yet. I say that the parallel made between the two armies is incomprehensible to us. This is difficult to understand coming from French citizens who follow the events in the region, and who know some of that region's history, and the history of Syria and Lebanon. Let me say once more; you, in France, you ought to know the history of Syria and Lebanon better than other people.

We say that we are in Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese president, and on the urgent request of the Lebanese people. We and the Lebanese speak one language, we have common interests. We have one origin. The Israelis are aggressors, invaders in Lebanon, who were not called in, not invited by the Lebanese Government or by the Lebanese president. They were not invited by the Lebanese people. Israelis are foreigners, as far as Lebanon is concerned. Foreigners in the full sense of the word. They have no common language with Lebanon, no common interests, no common history. Naturally, the Israelis should withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally.

The Israelis should not make any gains on Lebanese territory in recompense for their aggression and their invasion. As far as we are concerned — we and the Lebanese — we will decide the nature of our relations. If we allowed a third party to decide the relations to exist between us, it would mean that we confirm the rule which states it is the business of others to decide our fate. If we do not establish the nature of the relations between us, it would be an attitude damaging to relations between Syria and Lebanon.

You want to know how the Syrian forces will leave Lebanon? Exactly the same way they entered Lebanon. When Lebanon fully recovers its health, and the Lebanese Government asks us to withdraw our forces from Lebanon, we will certainly accept this. We shall greatly welcome this.

[Bromberger] Mr President, I would like to ask you the question in a practical way; shall we say if the Israelis withdrew from Lebanon, would you advance your troops and occupy the positions which they held?

[Al-Asad] Naturally, this is a matter of Lebanese interest and Syrian-Lebanese interest, a common interest between Syrians and Lebanese. Our presence in Lebanon, as a force and as citizens, and the presence of Lebanese in Syria, if this should be the case, as a Lebanese force and even as Lebanese citizens, is linked to the joint interests of both countries and to the agreements and treaties between them.

You must remember that we and Lebanon are members of the Arab League and that we have a joint defense agreement, that there is a joint agreement which links us and we are at war together against Israel. But we can be in Lebanon as an army, and the Lebanese Army could be in Syria, in accordance with the agreements accepted by both sides. So our presence in one part of the Lebanese territory stems from the decision of the Lebanese Government.

[Pinto] Mr President, since we are talking about the Arab League, the PLO is also a member of the Arab League and until now the chairman of the PLO has been Yasir 'Arafat. Now, how are things going with Yasir 'Arafat? How are things between you now?

[Al-Asad] There are no problems between us. The problem is 'Arafat's relations with his colleagues inside the PLO, with the other sections of the Palestinian resistance. This is even a matter of relations within the Fatah organization. This is a Palestine-Palestine problem and not a Palestine-Syria problem.

We are attached, however, to the unity of the PLO, just as we are attached to the representativeness of the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people.

[De la Gorce] Mr President, allow me to say [words indistinct] that on several occasions, Syrian authorities made rather severe remarks about the leadership of the PLO and of Yasir 'Arafat and his policy, his strategy. So that we can better understand the origin of the crisis between Syria and the PLO, which existed after all, I would like to know if there is a difference between you and Yasir 'Arafat regarding the strategy of the Palestinian resistance and the policy which it should follow, the aims it must achieve?

[Al-Asad] This is quite different. We are talking about other Arabs, while other Arabs talk about us. Who is going to impose the nature and the administrative structures in these countries — (?these two) peoples of these countries. Of course, on the Palestinian scene, we can be in disagreement with one party, one section. As for internal matters, this is the concern of the Palestinians themselves — all this falls within the realm of their own organization. Naturally, this has nothing to do with us.

But that we should evaluate, positively or negatively, the policy of Yasir 'Arafat or others, this, naturally is the case. When they are in agreement among themselves it may be supposed that our points of view are the same, are joint, on the strategic level. There is disagreement among the Palestinians themselves. With regard to the political aspect, we agree with proposals by part of the Palestinian movement and are against another part. This is quite normal in international relations.

[Denoyan] Mr President, do you think that Yasir 'Arafat's stragegy is one of defeat, or that it will enable the Palestinian people to recover its rights?

[Al-Asad] His colleagues say that 'Arafat's method is not in the interests of the Palestinian cause. This is where we disagree.

[De la Gorce] This is only one part of the Palestinian movement, and clearly there are profound differences between Syria and Yasir 'Arafat. Can you explain these to us more clearly?

[As-Asad] I repeat that there are disagreements between 'Arafat and his colleagues. Whether we agree or disagree with him in Syria, the structure of the Palestinians is decided by the situation in the interior of the Palestinian scene, that is to say the Palestinian organizations. Of course, we support the decisions and the resolutions made by the Palestinian congress and by the Palestinian National Council, and we support and approve the resolutions of the Fatah congress.

However, the other Palestinian organizations believe that certain officials on the Executive Committee, and Yasir 'Arafat in particular, do not adhere to, do not commit themselves (?profoundly) to these resolutions. In any case, as far as we are concerned, we will not impose on anyone in these organizations, neither Yasir 'Arafat, nor anyone else. This is their business.

[Bromberger] Mr President, what do you think about the idea of a Jordan-Palestinian confederation, and on another level, if a Palestinian state should be created, should it respect the integrity and the independence of Israel?

[Al-Asad] With regard to a federation or a confederation, we in Syria fight continuously for Arab unity. We always favor any form of unity between two Arab countries or several Arab countries. I was already asked about this problem a year ago, and I replied then as I do now, namely, that we support any action for unity in that Arab homeland. As far as Israel is concerned, and the attitude which the Palestinian state would adopt toward Israel, this is something which, of course, would have to be dealt with and examined by the Palestinians themselves.

[Unidentified speaker] But do you accept the UN resolutions which recognize the independence and the existence of Israel?

[As-Asad] Of course Israel... from whom you are separating and dividing these UN resolutions [as heard]. I do not know if this difference exists in French. We support and approve the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question. We approve them taken together as a whole [en bloc], in the same way we approve the establishment of a just peace in the region brought about on the basis of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations, and to which the two superpowers would be party, and to which Europe and other states would contribute, the nonaligned countries of the Islamic conference, and so forth. This has always been our point of view.

[Pinto] Mr President, on the Arab homeland. There is a part of the Arab world which is at war at the moment — Iraq against Iran. Now, the French, and others too, perhaps even Arabs, wonder why you do not support Arabs who are at war against those non-Arabs.

[Al-Asad] Our position is one of support for Arabs, that is to say the support we give ourselves. We did not want to create an unfriendly atmosphere of Arabs and Iranian hostility, because this is not in the interests of the Arabs, but is in the interests of Israel. We have one main enemy that is drawing up plans to occupy our lands and wants to create a great state going from the Nile to the Euphrates, comprising Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the two Yemens, also including a great part of Egypt and Sudan. This enemy, unfortunately, is supported by a superpower — the United States of America — which supplies it with all sorts of arms and gives it material and political aid. We need the aid of the world population. These nations are, first of all, the neighbors of Syria, and first of all the Iranian people, whose revolution was so that it could live, and not hamper or invade it, as was the case with certain Arab regimes. We considered this invasion to be against the interests of the Arabs, and of course against Iraqi interests. Iraq is an integral part of the Arab nation. But this is in the interests of Israel. If we were unable to stop the invasion, we at least managed to ensure that this invasion achieved its aims — the creation of a situation of hostility between the Arabs on the one hand and the Iranians on the other hand. So we wanted to prevent this invasion from achieving these aims.

The war is not an Iran-Arab war; it is not an Iraq-Iran war. This war was unleased between one regime and [words indistinct], and this certainly, is in the interests of the Arabs first and foremost.

[Unidentified speaker] There is, nevertheless, a paradox, Mr President, in that Syria, which is a lay, modernist country, is the ally of Iran, which since its revolution, has become a rather clerical regime and rather backward-looking?

[Al-Asad] Where is the contradiction?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, in the fact that there is a paradox here, and that Iraq, for its part, also has a [backward-looking] regime, which is a lay, modernist regime, and I think this is also an element in the conflict which should be taken into consideration. Moreover, since the beginning of the war, Iraq proposed — it was the first to attack — but subsequently it proposed opening negotiations and withdrawing to the international borders, and it seems at present that Iran refuses this, and would only accept it on condition that President Saddam Husayn resigns. That too, if you like, is an element of the debate. So what would Syria's position be at that stage?

[Al-Asad] This is a problem, but there is no paradox. The real paradox of which you are speaking, is as I said, that we are a lay regime and they have an Islamic regime. It is not for us to interfere in the affairs of any country. The Iranian people decide on the regime which suits it. The Iranian people had a revolution and brought down the shah's regime.

If you ask the Iranians, they will tell you about the suffering which affected them in the long years of imperial regime. The most important thing as far as we are concerned — of course it is of great importance to us, that the Iranian people and every other people in the world should live in the best conditions, but as for these conditions, it is the people themselves that must decide them. The main thing, as far as we are concerned, is the foreign policy of Iran. In Iran there was the shah's regime, a regime friendly with Israel, with the state of Israel; a revolutionary regime was set in motion in Iran which is against Israel. The preceding Iranian regime had excellent relations with Israel, and did not want to help the Arabs at all in the restoration of their rights and the [word indistinct]. Another regime, thanks to the Islamic revolution, wants to support the Arabs, stand side by side with them, and considers the Palestinian cause, and above all, the question of Jerusalem, an Iranian cause just as it is an Arab cause, that it is an Islamic cause, just as it is an Arab cause. Of course, this whould be very important as far as we Arabs are concerned, and we cannot fail to be aware of such important things.

And here we are dealing with things that do not concern us at all [as heard]. Of course in addition, we should say that Iran is no longer an American-based country, and naturally the United States supports Israel fully, and at present Iran is a nonaligned country. We also take this into consideration, and that is why in our position on Iran we are logical with ourselves, with our principles, and with the policy which we currently follow in our country.

[Chalveron] Since you have been in power, Mr President, you have met all the presidents of the United States all except one, Ronald Reagan. First of all, do you want to meet him, and do you think that in a second term of office, that is to say when he has no electoral considerations in mind, he could have a more balanced policy in the Middle East?

[Al-Asad] We hope that President Reagan will have a balanced policy in the Middle East during his second term of office. We do not ask the United States to be on our side. We ask them to have a balanced attitude and that they not support Israel.

As for a meeting, this is a question which has not been examined, by us or by the Americans, although contacts continue to take place, despite the very difficult circumstances which surround our relations.

We were at war in Lebanon while American envoys came to our countries to talk to us about the problems.

[Denoyan] To wind up, Mr President, I would like to inquire about your health. You were ill last year, and many were very concerned about your health. I would like to know how you are and how you feel?

[Al-Asad] Thank God that it seems I am very well. I feel this and the medical examinations all prove that my health is excellent. Over the radio I should like to send my greetings and the greetings of our people to the French people.

[Denoyan] Mr President, I should like, in the name of my colleagues, to thank you for replying so frankly and so extensively to our questions, which were very direct.

Khaddam, Al-Shar' Leave for Tehran 'Consultations'

JN171126 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left for Tehran today to hold consultations with officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran on the latest developments in the region.

Reportage on Justice Minister Visit to USSR

For Soviet and Damascus coverage of the visit of Minister of Justice Khalid al-Maliki to the Soviet Union and the agreement signed on legal aid, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 19 November Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Al-Naqurah Talks Continue; Differences Noted

Talks Assessed

TA171852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] In Israel, policymakers are waiting to see whether Lebanon's demand for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal is just an opening position, and whether the Lebanese are willing to negotiate seriously at the Al-Naqurah talks. More from reporter David Essing:

[Begin recording] Israeli sources say Lebanese Brigadier Muhammad al-Hajj did the tough talking in Al-Naqurah but his proposal was dictated from Damascus, Syria. One senior policymaker recently gave the talks up to 3 months, but unilateral Israeli steps could come earlier, if the Lebanese stick to their hard line.

There would also be a cooling in Defense Minitser Yitzhaq Rabin's appraisal that the Syrians may be interested in a withdrawal agreement.

On this score, American diplomat Richard Murphy found that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad still insists that Israeli forces leave Lebanon without the security arrangements that Israel is seeking, in other words, the unconditional withdrawal the Lebanese talked about in Al-Naqurah.

Al-Asad reportedly believes that Israel is on its way out of Lebanon anyway because of Israeli public opinion and the decisionmakers. At the same time, the Syrian leader had prodded the Lebanese into going to Al-Naqurah.

If it becomes clear the negotiations are a failure, Israel's fallback position will likely be the partial withdrawal that Prime Minister Peres raised during his recent visit to the United States. This involves the pullback in the eastern [as heard] sector, while staying put opposite the Syrians in the Al-Biqa' valley.

Government officials have been looking at a proposal by Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer who served in Lebanon as an army officer. His plan calls for Israeli forces to pull back in the eastern [as heard] sector, from the heavily-populated Shi'ite areas where most of the attacks are taking place on Israeli soldiers.

This would include the town of Tyre, and the withdrawal could be to the Litani River. Some of these Israeli forces could even be moved westward [as heard] opposite the Syrians in the Al-Biqa'. Hopefully, the results would be less terrorist attacks and pressure on the Syrians.

And finally, this reaction from former Chief of Staff Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan: What does he think of the Lebanese demand for $10 billion in war reparations?

Eytan replied: Israel's delegates should have demanded $12 billion from the Lebanese for the terrorist attacks from their territory, and then walked out of the Al-Naqurah talks. [end recording]

Security Plans Analyzed

TA180723 Jerusalem The JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 84 pp 1,3

[Joshua Brilliant commentary]

[Text] The main question arising from the Lebanese security plan presented at the military talks in Al-Naqurah last Thursday is whether Beirut is really capable of implementing it and of assuring a quiet border with Israel.

No one can expect a total prevention of attacks. One cannot expect the inferior Lebanese forces, or the UN troops, to do a more dedicated job than the IDF did.

The Lebanese plan seems to be quite ambitious, involving the deployment of nearly three brigades with a total of 8,000 to 10,000 men.

One mechanized brigade would be deployed in the eastern sector, roughly between the Syrian border and a line running south from Jabal al-Baruk.

Two mechanized battalions with headquarters in Sidon would take over the area between the Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani Rivers, from the coast to the eastern sector. Another mechanized brigade would be deployed in the western sector between the Al-Zahrani and the border.

These forces, according to the Lebanese plan, should be beefed up by airborne troops which could be rushed to areas where intervention is needed.

UNIFIL, the plan says, should be spread out along the border "to assist the Lebanese Army in maintaining security and order."

Significantly, Israel's negotiators, headed by Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] 'Amos Gilbo'a, did not pooh-pooh the plan. The impression given by Israeli sources was that, although it was not acceptable as a package, elements of it were worth examining.

Perhaps their attitude was influenced by the belief that much of the Lebanese position that was put forward — and immediately leaked to the press — was rhetorical and designed to please the myriad groups in that country. It was, sources here believed, just an opening stance in the talks.

One of the facts immediately apparent is that the Lebanese plan bears no resemblance to the one Israel has presented. The Israeli plan calls for UNIFIL's deployment in a northern sector — roughly between the Al-Zahrani and Litani rivers — in part to prevent Syrian encroachment.

The plan goes on to call for the south Lebanese army's deployment in the southern sector up to the border — but this is a force which the Lebanese plan specifically excludes from any arrangement.

Israel is also insisting that it retain the right for overflights, and be able to dispatch forces to the area, if necessary, in case of trouble.

Nevertheless, some aspects of the Lebanese plan are attractive. And there is much to say in favour of having forces in the area for which the central government is responsible.

Can the Lebanese assume the burden themselves?

One immediate question asked by experts here was — where will they find the troops? The Lebanese Army already has plenty to do in other sectors, beginning most notably with providing security in the country's own capital.

And it's worth recalling that when Lebanon decided on compulsory military service and published call-up dates, very few people turned up. Many preferred to join their communities' militia.

According to information available here, Lebanon has 10 infantry brigades — but only five of them are fully answerable to the central government. The First Brigade, for example, is deployed in the Al-Biqa', co-operates with the Syrians and reportedly does not obey the Lebanese GHQ. The 11th Brigade comprises soldiers and officers who had once defected from the army and later returned. They are now based in the Al-Matu region and are believed to have fought alongside Druse militias against the Eighth Brigade in Suk al-Gharb. Four brigades are based in east Beirut — and of these how many would the government send south, bearing in mind its need to assert sovereignty and security in the capital itself.

The problem is compounded by the need to dispatch to the south units belonging to the same community as the residents among whom they will be deployed and operate.

Even if Lebanon produces the units — how effective will they be? One source recalled that their Fourth Brigade disintegrated when it faced the Druse fighters last year.

Experts here do not believe the Lebanese Army has greatly improved. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently expressed a very poor opinion of its capability, and said that the Lebanese' original plan to send the brigades to the south by sea was further proof of their weakness. They preferred to ship the men, he noted, rather than try to open the coastal road between Beirut and Sidon, which has been blocked by various militias.

If the Lebanese Army was not willing to use force to open one of its main highways, can it be trusted to fight people merely trying to use its territory to reach the Israeli border for an attack?

Instead of talking in generalities, the Israeli team at Al-Naqurah reportedly picked up on one element in the Lebanese plan and began questioning their counterparts.

Which two battalions will be deployed in the Sidon-Jazzin area? Where will they come from? Where will they be stationed?

The Lebanese team insisted these were internal Lebanese problems and were none of Israel's business. The Israelis insisted it was. There the talks broke up. They are to resume tomorrow morning.

Gilbo'a Rejects Demands

TA190921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0848 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The talks in Al-Naqurah between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations resumed a short time ago. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports from UNIFIL headquarters in Al-Naqurah:

[Tal — live] The head of the Israeli delegation to Al-Naqurah, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, made the following statement during today's meeting: He emphasized that the IDF will remain in Lebanon until security arrangements acceptable to Israel are reached — arrangements which will ensure the safety of the northern border. He said: We are sitting here in order to find practical solutions for achieving these arrangements, and until such time the IDF soldiers will not leave Leabnon. Brig Gen Gilbo'a also said that all territories evacuated by the IDF will be occupied by UNIFIL; this is an established principle which was implemented in 1978, and it will also be implemented now as a basic factor in the security arrangements demanded by us. Most of the UNIFIL forces will be deployed — as was made clear — in the entire northern part of the territory we currently occupy.

He also said that the Lebanese Army and local Lebanese military forces will constitute another factor in the arrangements. We are discussing their areas of deployment and methods of operation. Brig Gen Gilbo'a also addressed himself to demands made by the Lebanese delegation during the previous meeting. One demand was that Israel pay Lebanon reparations amounting to $10 billion for damages supposedly done to Lebanon. Brig Gen Gilbo'a unequivocally announced that we totally reject this demand. He said that we are in Al-Naqurah in order to discuss security arrangements for our northern border. This is our central objective, and it is not our business to discuss the irrelevant issue of reparations.

In response to another issue raised by the Lebanese delgation — that Israel make some good-will gestures such as the release of detainees and opening the crossings to a free flow of traffic — Brig Gen Gilbo'a announced that Israel cannot allow itself to make gestures as long as the attacks against us continue. Our prime concern is to maintain security and protect the soldiers of the IDF. We will continue to implement all the security measures necessary in order to achieve this objective. Let nobody have any illusions on this point — our security is above everything else, said Brig Gen Gilbo'a. Only if the attacks end will we be able to consider concessions on various issues. These were the remarks made by Brig Gen 'Amos Gilbo'a during the meeting in Al-Naqurah today.

Lebanese Concede 2 Issues

TA191153 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Gil Ronen report from Al-Naqurah]

[Excerpt] Brigadier General 'amos Gilbo'a has presented the principles guiding Israel in its Lebanese policy, such as the tenet that the IDF remain in Lebanon until acceptable security arrangements guaranteeing the safety of our northern border have been reached. As for UNIFIL, Gilbo'a said, most of this force will deploy in the entire northern zone of the area which is now under our control. The Lebanese Army and other local forces will constitute an additional factor in the arrangements.

The Lebanese delegation held an internal consultation after Israel had presented its stand. When the consultation was over, the Lebanese announced that they have red lines beyond which they are not ready to make concessions. However, our correspondent Nitzan Horowitz reports from Al-Naqurah that the Lebanese say they are ready to make concessions on two issues: the compensation, which the Lebanese define as a political rather than a defense matter, and the issue of the Armistice Commission. As is known, the Lebanese have demanded that all negotiations be held in this framework. Our correspondent also says that the delegation voiced its dismay over Israel's stance.

Round of Talks Ends

TA191416 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The Al-Naqurah talks ended about an hour ago, and will resume in 2 days. Our correspondent there, Shmu'el Tal, reports that the Lebanese Army's plan to deploy in southern Lebanon was discussed today. According to that plan, southern Lebanon would be partitioned into two sectors: north and south. One brigade and two battalions would deploy in each sector, and soldiers would be deployed in strategic places, particularly around cities such as Tyre and Sidon. Our correspondent notes, however, that the Lebanese Army's deployment map does not mention the stationing of forces around the refugee camps.

The Israeli representatives to the talks requested an explanation for this, and the Lebanese representatives explained that for the moment they have no intention of deploying troops there because they are preparing to defend the entire area.

Our correspondent notes that the army of southern Lebanon was not debated at all today. The parties may have decided to refrain for the moment from discussing issues over which differences of opinion are great, in order to create the impression that progress is being made in the talks.

Birri Warned Against Attacks on IDF

TA181040 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Nov 84 p 1, 11

[Yosef Walter and Shefi Gabay report]

[Excerpts] On 16 November Israel warned Amal leader Nabih Birri that it will act firmly against the Shi'ite leaders and their followers in southern Lebanon if hostile actions against the IDF continue.

A senior security source told *MA'ARIV* that the warning was conveyed to Birri through a certain person with the intention of making it plain to the Amal leaders in Beirut and to the Lebanese Government in general that Israel will not hesitate to take action in the future as well if hostile actions against the IDF continue, even if this means the termination of the Al-Naqurah talks.

The same source stressed that Israel draws a clear distinction between the military talks in Al-Naqurah and the measures it has to take to impose law and order in southern Lebanon and to prevent the IDF's exposure to attacks. He added that the release of Mahmud Faqih, the Shi'ite leader of the south, was not linked in any way to the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks. He was released after his interrogation was over.

Senior Security Source Denies Faqih Tortured

TA171824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] A senior security source this evening totally denied charges by Shi'ite leader Mahmud Faqih, who claimed in Beirut today that the IDF had tortured him during his detention. The source told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the treatment of the Shi'ite leader during his detention was more than fair. Faqih was not held under normal detention conditions but in a facility where conditions were similar to house arrest. His interrogation was restricted to questions and answers. The senior source said that Faqih's claim to have been tortured was expected and was made in order to present himself as a national hero.

Detention Termed 'Mistake'

TA161929 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Mahmud Faqih, the Shi'ite Amal leader of southern Lebanon, was released today following the completion of his interrogation and was transferred to Beirut through the Batir al-Shuf crossing point. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that Mahmud Faqih was detained by mistake, in fact, when the security forces raided a Sidon apartment where Amal leaders were convening.

Beirut government sources claimed this week that the release of the four Amal detainees, including Faqih, was linked to the understanding which made possible the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks.

Druze Station Soviet Tanks in Southern Lebanon

TA170852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The Druze have positioned tanks and heavy weapons in the Al-Kharrub area north of the Al-Awwali River. They say they received the weapons directly from the Soviet Union. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that this refers to T-55 tanks and heavy mortars.

This week an IDF patrol discovered 6 new Soviet tanks in the Al-Kharrub region. On one of them they found symbols and writing in English. Our correspondent points out that there has been great tension in the Al-Kharrub region recently. The Druze are threatening to conquer the coastal strip, which is populated with Christians, if the IDF withdraws from southern Lebanon.

Appeal for Calm Made

TA172021 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said today that his country is making maximum efforts to open the coastal road from Beirut to the south within a week. According to yesterday's Lebanese Government decision, the Lebanese Army will deploy along this road. The opening of the road has met with fierce opposition by the Druze, who fear losing their powerful position in the Al-Kharrub area.

Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that Israel has recently appealed to the Druze to maintain the agreement between them and the Christians in the Al-Kharrub area, according to which the Druze will not harm Christian residents of this area.

Defense Sources on Reservists' Lahd Army Service

TA172031 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] In reaction to the criticism of summons issued to reservists to serve in auxiliary roles in the army of southern Lebanon [ASL], defense sources say that ever since the establishment of the ASL under the late Haddad, Israeli training officers, as well as IDF administrative personnel — filling the positions of signal operators and drivers — have served in this army. The issuance of summons for service in the ASL now does not constitute any change from past practices.

Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni sent a telegram to the defense minister at the end of last week, in which she asked why reservists were serving in the ASL, in light of Minister Rabin's announcement that the ASL is an independent army.

Cabinet Approves Additional Cut of $550 Million

TA181236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The Cabinet has approved the finance minister's proposal to cut the government's budget by another $550 million. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that in line with the prime minister's wish, only the outline of the cut was approved; its details will be discussed in the four-minister committee. The Committee will begin its discussions probably today, and will conclude them within 10 days.

Earlier, the Cabinet began dealing with the unemployment problem. It will continue discussing the plan worked out by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav on this issue. Qatzav and the prime minister are scheduled to meet on employment and national insurance allowances after the Cabinet session.

The Cabinet has also decided that Minister Moshe Shahal will represent it in the coalition executive, and will participate in it with Minister Moshe Nisim.

The Cabinet was briefed by the defense minister.

Decision Not Binding

TA181506 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1445 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Today the Cabinet did not make any binding decision, in fact, regarding a state budget cut. The framework of the cut has not even been determined, and the ministers were informed by the director of the Treasury's Budget Department and the finance minister only that the goal is to reach a decrease of $550 million during the coming year. The ministers only accepted Prime Minister Peres' suggestion that a special 4-minister committee be granted the powers of deciding the cut for each individual ministry. Since the defense budget plays a major role in the framework of the cut, it was decided to hold an extraordinary Cabinet meeting in the Tel Aviv Defense Ministry next week on the defense budget issue.

Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that a very sharp argument developed between Ministers Qatzav and Moda'i in the course of the Cabinet meeting. Qatzav told Moda'i: I have the same right to speak here as you do. Moda'i retorted: "If you want a fist fight, I also have fists and I will fight." Our correspondent reports that the finance minister banged the table and his shouts were so loud that they astounded the ministers.

Unemployment statistics were not mentioned in the finance minister's review of the state budget cut. However, in the course of the extensive discussion about unemployment, the labor and social affairs minister talked about the need to prepare for approximately 20,000 unemployed people and demanded that the conditions for paying unemployment benefits be made stricter. Gad Ya'aqobi and other ministers demanded that the freeze on the work of the Investments Authority be thawed, at least partially.

Deliberations Summarized

TA181848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] A four-man ministerial committee will try and cut another $550 million from the state budget within the next 10 days. The Cabinet has appointed Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i to chair the committee, which includes Gad Ya'aqobi, Moshe Arens, and 'Ezer Weizman. At today's meeting, Prime Minister Peres said the package deal is succeeding beyond expectations. The prime minister and Finance Minister Moda'i sharply attacked Minister Gid'on Pat's criticism of the package deal, saying it spread demoralization. David Essing reports on today's Cabinet meeting:

Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i first told the ministers why another budget cut of $550 million is a must. No one disagreed, but the question is what to trim. Prime Minister Peres stepped in to prevent a free-for-all over the budget cut, by suggesting that a four-man ministerial committee meet with the different ministers within 10 days to decide where the reductions should be made. The Cabinet unanimously approved the prime minister's proposal.

Clearly the biggest slice of the budget cuts must come from defense spending. So, next Sunday Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will have his chance to tell the ministers what more defense trimming will mean for the country's security. On this note, defense sources recently stated in no uncertain terms that more defense cuts will affect the state of readiness and the strength of the Israel Defense Forces.

The minister of labor and social welfare, Moshe Qatzav, forecast a 50-percent increase in the number of unemployed in the first half of the new year. This, the minister said, would mean the retraining of another 15,000 to 20,000 people who would be fired. Qatzav later told reporters that he believes the government will not decide to use mass unemployment as a tool to fight inflation. The minister also disclosed that 10,500 unemployed are now receiving unemployment payment, and that regulations for eligibility have been stiffened.

In another decision today, the Cabinet appointed the minister of energy, Moshe Shahal, to handle liaison with the Knesset. This is of crucial importance, because earlier Cabinet decisions on budget cuts have not been implemented yet; they are still being held up in Knesset committees.

Yitzhaq Moda'i and his three-man team now have their work cut out. While the ministries agree that public spending must be curtailed further, they also say that more budget slashing means cutting to the bone, and it's bound to hurt.

'Arafat Contacts Leftists on PNC Attendance

TA181151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is trying to influence Israel to permit more than 100 members of the 384-member PNC resident in the territories to attend the session he is scheduled to open in Amman on Thursday. Clearly, he needs their votes if he is to obtain a two-thirds attendance, necessary for a quorum. Details from Arye Heskell:

[Heskell — live or recorded] The approach to Israel was made on 'Arafat's behalf by the exiled former mayor of Halhul, Muhammad Milhim. He contacted Uri Avneri, the leftwing editor of the weekly *HA'OLAM HAZE*, who is also cochairman of the Progressive List for Peace. Avneri, in turn, approached the head of the Peace Now movement, the lawyer (Tzali) Reshef. Reshef told me this morning that Peace Now will discuss the issue later this week, but his own view is that Israel's interests would be served by allowing members of the PNC to make the trip to Amman.

However, this is not the policy of the government and, according to the afternoon paper *YEDI'OT AHARONOT*, a number of PNC members who attempted to leave for Jordan were turned back at the bridges and others at Ben-Gurion Airport. The spokeswoman for the Civil Administration for the administered territories could give me no specific numbers, but said that Israel does not permit the residents of the territories to maintain contacts with the PLO, which, she said, remains committed to the destruction of the state.

The residents of the territories are thought to be overwhelmingly in support of 'Arafat in his struggle against the Syrian-aligned rebels headed by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], although the anti-'Arafat elements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are far more vocal. Thus, the latter group has collected 400 signatures for a petition urging 'Arafat to call off the Amman meeting.

'Arafat PNC Stand Scored

JN191157 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic 18 Nov 84 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Will of the Masses"]

[Text] The insistence of the Palestinian right wing, particularly the deviationist side, on holding a divisionist PNC session in Amman on 22 November despite the mammoth popular rejection and denunciation of this divisionist step, confirms 'Arafat's real intentions — he aims to use this unilateral step as a cover for his attempts to embark on liquidationist solutions in the region by dealing with Reagan's plan, which is considered a continuation of the Camp David accords.

The Arab reactionaries' and the United States' preparations being made to impose solutions are being seen by 'Arafat and his clique as their opportunity to join this bandwagon, imagining that this region has fallen into the U.S. grip and that they should have a role in the U.S. settlement plans. 'Arafat and his clique believe that in order to do so a divisionist PNC session should be held in Amman in order to give him "legitimacy" and approve his deviationist trend, as this will facilitate his fall into the swamp of settlements.

In any case and no matter how hard the Palestinian right wing and its deviationist stream try to forge the will of the masses in an attempt to conceal their defectiveness, they will eventually be unable to ignore this will. Nobody, no matter how great he is, can bypass the masses, particularly when the matter is related to bargaining over their rights and harming their accomplishments and gains.

The will of the masses, which rejects and denounces 'Arafat's divisionist step and his attempts and those of his media to forge facts, will always be the first and last arbiter. The misleading campaigns will not benefit 'Arafat and his clique and information media no matter how skillful they are in this regard. The public will, particularly in the interior, is capable of toppling whoever works against the Palestinian people's interests in the same manner, as it had toppled all the previous plans and plots against our cause and inalienable national rights.

Political Sources Say Tabah Talks To Begin Soon

TA190731 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Negotiations between Israeli and Egyptian representatives on the deployment of MFO forces in Tabah are expected to begin in the near future. An agreement in principle on opening these talks was reached last week at the annual meeting of the joint military committee of the two countries in Rome. Sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent that the talks may begin within the next 10 days. However, a precise date for the beginning of the talks has not been set so far. 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] For a long time Israel has been seeking to hold talks with Egypt on the issue of conducting daily life in Tabah until a permanent solution to the problem is found. Egypt had previously stood firm in its refusal, but now apparently agrees. This, too, may be one of the signs of the thaw in the cold peace between the two countries — a thaw to which political sources in Jerusalem repeatedly testify, although at present it may be more wishful thinking than solid fact. In the military committee talks in Rome it transpired that the Egyptians are basically willing to hold talks, and sources in Jerusalem expect them to begin within the next 10 days. However, a date has not yet been set, the location for the talks is not clear — in this connection the name of Beersheba has been mentioned — and the status of the participants has not been defined. Let us note parenthetically that the same holds true for the top Egyptian envoy, whose arrival Jerusalem is awaiting — it is not clear who will come, or when he will come.

The formula raised is also an old Israeli proposal which has lately been embraced by Egypt. In the absence of a permanent solution, the MFO will deploy in the interim period in the controversial Tabah area. Israel and Egypt still do not see eye-to-eye regarding the role which the force will play. Cairo demands that it also serve as a police force; Jerusalem demands that the Israeli police continue to police the territory. Jokes were circulated among political circles this week, such as who will deal with the towel thieves in the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah, but apparently this controversy must not be downplayed.

Another threat to the interim agreement is expected on the internal political front in Israel. Likud ministers headed by Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir lately expressed firm resistance to the isolation of the Tabah issue from the other issues concerning Israeli-Egyptian relations. There is also resistance to the proposed formula, and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is currently consolidating proposals for a unified Israeli stand on this issue. It has been reported that the proposals will be debated in the Inner Cabinet once more details are released on the beginning of contacts with Egypt and the arrival of the Egyptian envoy.

To sum up, it appears that Egypt and Israel choose to open negotiations on daily life in Tabah in the hope that the temporary solutions achieved will eventually become permanent solutions. As to the question of the permanent status of Tabah, sharp controversy remains, and as a top political source said this week in Jerusalem, the problem is that tiny Tabah has turned into an ideological issue; the sides climbed too high a tree, and the aim of the talks which are about to begin is to return this issue to its natural dimensions. [end recording]

Egyptian Soldiers Fire on Civilian Yacht

TA171941 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1910 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Elat, 17 Nov (ITIM) — Light weapons fire was aimed at an Israeli yacht sailing from the Gulf of Suez to Elat as it sought overnight shelter near the coast, about 25 miles northwest of Ra's Muhammad. Miraculously, none of the ship's passengers was hurt.

Even after the ship sailed away from the site, soldiers continued firing. The incident took place on Wednesday evening and was learned of when the yacht reached Elat.

A member of the *Na'ama* yacht crew, Sefi Wallfish, 24, of Tel Aviv, said the yacht left the Tel Aviv marina for Elat at the beginning of the week with six passengers and crewmen aboard. The sea was stormy, and the ship was tossed around making the yacht's passengers sick. On Wednesday evening, when the yacht was 25 miles north of Ra's Muhammad, the crew and passengers sought overnight shelter in a small inlet about 60 meters off shore. They weighed anchor and began to prepare for a meal and rest. Suddenly, an Egyptian military jeep arrived on shore, and two armed soldiers climbed out of it. Without prior warning and without asking any questions they opened fire on the yacht. "We heard the bullets whistling over our heads, and we all dived for cover," Sefi said, adding: "We signalled to them that we would leave immediately but they continued to shoot at us."

The crew raised the anchor and sailed away from the area. The *Na'ama* yacht safely arrived in Elat on Friday afternoon.

No Protest Planned

TA191137 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 84 p 3

[Eytan Rabin report]

[Excerpts] Israel will not file an official protest with Egypt concerning the incident of the Israeli yacht *Na'ama*, whose owners claim to have been shot at from the coast by Egyptian soldiers last Saturday.

The two owners of the yacht did not file a complaint with any qualified body, including the navy officers who interrogated them.

Another incident in which Egyptian soldiers fired at a yacht was disclosed yesterday. From an investigation conducted by the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent it transpires that shots were directed at an Australian yacht which was sailing from the Gulf of Suez toward the Elat marina. No injuries were incurred during the incident, which took place about 1 and 1/2 months ago, but the yacht sank.

Major Dov (Sheref), the Israeli liaison officer in [illegible] the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent yesterday that in [illegible] the vessel sank due to storms rather than shots fired by the Egyptians. (Sheref) noted that Israel did not deal with this incident because it involved a foreign yacht and Australian citizens.

Hasan 'Isa, Egypt's consul in Elat, yesterday said that indeed there was such an incident in which shots were directed at an Australian yacht which approached the coast, because it was believed that it may have been carrying hashish. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent notes that the three Australians who were on board reached Elat safely, after being picked up by another yacht.

Ambassador Assesses Relations With Egypt

TA161445 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Nov 84 p 16

[Interview with Moshe Sason, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, by Yosef Tzuri'el — at Sason's residence in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Moshe Sason, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, is here for what is known in diplomatic lingo as "home leave." The day after he arrived he met with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Foreign Affairs Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He briefed the two on the talks he held 2 days earlier with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. In "political circles" rumors were rampant that there were "signs of change" in bilateral relations. Cairo, however, has been restrained in reacting to the matter.

During the interview in his beautiful Rehavya house in Jerusalem, Ambassador Sason was very careful in his choice of words. The main theme he exudes is: No hysterics, please.

Question: Is there really nothing new?

Answer: There is a combination of three factors here that give cause for hope. First of all, there are military negotiations going on between Israel and Lebanon for security arrangements. There is no doubt that the Lebanese problem disturbed Egypt, and put it, as the largest Arab country, in an embarrassing position. Second, there are new administrations in Egypt, Israel, and the United States. And third, there is a feeling in Egypt now that action should be taken on some issues in the relationship. This is, naturally, according to the Egyptian Administration's list of priorities.

Question: Does this feeling you refer to mean increasing Egyptian pressure on Israel?

Answer: The difficulty I have been encountering in Egypt following the establishment of the new government is the claim that it is Israel's responsibility to act now in order to extricate the two countries from the present situation. This is also the reason for the appeal to the U.S. Administration, because it is a partner to the peace treaty. The basic conception which I try to explain is that if there is something which is valued by the two nations, then both sides have the responsibility to act.

Question: What does Egypt expect from the U.S. Administration?

Answer: People in Egypt talk about the United States as a "full partner," and they believe that the U.S. Administration can influence Israel much more strongly and energetically than Egypt. In my opinion this belief is a mark of discredit to the Egyptian Administration. When there are problems in bilateral relations, Egypt should strengthen its ties with Israel. Its ambassador should be in Israel, particularly at this time.

Question: People in Israel often illustrate the quality and strength of peace with Egypt in terms of tourism traffic, exports and imports of goods, exchanges of delegations. Is this the way peace should be measured?

Answer: At this stage of relations the importance of trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges does not stem only from narrow interests. The uniqueness of these relations is in the human contact they create. I am sorry to say that there is something missing and incomplete in this dimension, but peace does not depend only on it.

Question: Mr Ambassador, how do you define the phrase "a freeze in relations" with Egypt?

Answer: This phrase primarily means an incorrect conception by the Egyptian Administration regarding the peace process, namely that if there is a freeze in relations this will constitute pressure on Israel. The Cairo administration now knows it was wrong. If I were an Egyptian in a position of responsibility I would ask: Where will this lead Egypt?

Question: In Israel the return of Egypt to the Arab world is linked to a deterioration of its relations with Israel. Is this true?

Answer: There once was a very serious case where we were caught up in a certain way of thinking, and this led to a war. Now I am against concepts that may seriously harm attempts to cultivate peace. My attitude is that any assessment must face the test of reality, and then the truth will become clear.

Question: For a long time, almost since the peace treaty was signed, the Egyptian media have been expressing hostility toward Israel. Is this a misfortune we must live with?

Answer: This is a misfortune and we must not merely accept it. It is true that the Egyptian media portray Israel in a negative way. We are trying to battle this serious phenomenon. I think that it should worry the Egyptian Administration no less than it worries us. After all, we are talking about teaching people about peace, deepening the consciousness of peace in our region.

Question: You alluded to an Egyptian willingness to renew talks on controversial issues. Can we understand from this that Cairo and Jerusalem are sobering up, for example, regarding Tabah?

Answer: The change is in the very willingness of the two sides to hold a discussion in order to exhaust all possibilities. And we must remember that in our relations with Egypt we must not talk with a stopwatch in our hand. We must remember that the Nile moves slowly.

Question: You have been Israel's ambassador to Cairo for the last 3 and 1/2 years. Where are the successes, what are the achievements?

Answer: Before I left for Cairo I knew how difficult, complicated, and delicate the job was, and I have still not forgotten that we are talking about laying the foundations for peace. And even if there is controversy between Israel and Egypt today, we must not hide the important fact: Peace, as the basic strategy, has been maintained. And in the Middle East this in itself is a plus.

Free Trade Talks Need Political Intervention
TA161228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Israel has told American negotiators it will not sign a free trade agreement unless Israeli textiles receive customs exemptions immediately [after] the agreement goes into effect. During the current round of talks, the question of customs tariffs on Israeli textiles remains deadlocked. The United States is demanding that Israeli textiles only be granted a lower tariff 5 years after the agreement goes into effect. Officials at the talks say intervention at the political level is needed to break the deadlock. Israel's economic attache in Washington is to meet Secretary of State George Shultz next week on the issue.

Arens Optimistic on Relations With U.S.
TA161209 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
16 Nov 84 Political Supplement p 4

[Arye Tzimuqi report]

[Text] Minister Moshe Arens has just returned from the United States, where he met with Secretary of State George Shultz and other administration officials. He came back with a rather optimistic assessment of the future of bilateral relations following the presidential elections. He believes the administration has been displaying a friendly attitude and a sincere concern for the Israeli economic developments. He discerned a great measure of understanding of our real security needs, and awareness of the economic burden we have to shoulder. The administration officials, he claims, are prepared to help us achieve economic recovery, and they have no inclination to make their aid conditionalupon political concessions. For this reason Arens believes that we ought to take advantage of the situation and present them with a comprehensive economic plan soon.

Arens believes it is possible to request increased security aid, because members of the administration want Israel to be strong, and now realize that in fact, if one takes the devaluation of the dollar into account, they have not increased that aid in real terms for several years.

Officials Concerned About U.S.-Arab Arms Deals
TA190528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Israeli officials in Washington are concerned about new arms deals between the United States and Saudi Arabia and Jordan. According to the officials, the deals will be submitted to Congress in a few weeks. The sources, who spoke to our correspondent Razi Barqay, were reacting to the report in *THE NEW YORK TIMES* listing Saudi Arabia's and Jordan's requests, including combat planes, tanks, radar systems, and shoulder missiles. The American paper wrote that Secretary of State Shultz is sympathetic to Saudi Arabia's requests, but makes the supply of sophisticated weapons to Jordan conditional upon its joining the political process.

Attempt To Assassinate West Bank Mayor Fails
TA191319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] At noon today there was an attempt to assassinate the Israeli mayor of Ramallah, Moshe Biton, who is a Civilian Administration official. A hand grenade was thrown at his car, but failed to explode. Security forces have been searching the area for the assailant.

LIBYA

'Revolutionary Force' Claims Death of Al-Bakkush

LD161427 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] In implementation of the resolution of the basic people's conferences, which formed suicidal detachments for liquidating the enemies of the revolution and the enemies of the people's authority internally and externally, the revolutionary force last Monday, 12 November, at 1500 precisely carried out the execution sentence against the traitor, hireling, and stray dog, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush [former Libyan prime minister], who sold his conscience to the enemies of the Arab nation and the enemies of the Libyan Arab people, who are conspiring against this people.

The revolutionary force herewith declares its responsibility for the liquidation of the stray dog and the hireling traitor, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, and promises the leader and the Libyan Arab people that its suicidal detachments will continue to follow the stray dogs, wherever they may be and wherever they go, even if they are in the arms of their masters. They will never escape the punishment and execution of the people's sentence, or the long and strong arm of the revolutionary force and that of the suicidal detachments.

These stray dogs will not escape the punishment of the people and the execution of the death sentence, despite the fact that their masters — the enemies of the Libyan Arab People, and the American CIA — supply protection, guards, and diplomatic immunity.

Statement Denies Allegations by Egypt's Mubarak

LD181551 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Nov (JANA) — The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued the following statement:

Husni Mubarak said in his speech in Ad-Daqahliyyah — and it was repeated by his interior minister — that there was a Libyan plan directed at Germany, France, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, and Britain. Husni Mubarak went further when he spoke of a plot to assassinate the German chancellor and the Saudi king. The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison categorically denies what Husni Mubarak and his interior minister said.

1. These statements are linked to the plan for which the imperialist forces have been circulating and planning: a pre-prepared plan aimed at creating the suitable conditions for an aggressive act against the Jamahiriyah by the regime of Husni Mubarak.

2. The countries which were mentioned in Husni Mubarak's speech are linked with the Jamahiriyah by distinguished fraternal relations and cooperation and friendship, whether these countries are Arab fraternal countries or friendly Western countries. It is obvious that the aim of this attempt is to sabotage these distinguished relations. By adding Britain to the aforementioned list of countries, the aim of those who are going to carry out this plan becomes quite clear

3. The People's Committee of the People's Bureau reaffirms its rejection of Husni Mubarak and his interior's minister statement and denies their authenticity.

Jallud Reacts to Mubarak-Al-Bakkush Meeting

LD190914 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Nov (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, commenting about Husni Mubarak, the head of the Egyptian regime, receiving yesterday the good-for-nothing "Al-Bakkush," has stated: "If Husni Mubarak were to place the whole Egyptian Army at the disposal of all these good-for-nothing wornout sandals and the dead specimen [as received], the Libyan people would not be bothered or perturbed. We defeated this specimen and these good-for-nothings in 1969 when we did not have weapons: What would the outcome be now that the Libyan people are free, have affirmed their authority in the popular congresses, and have the authority, resources, and weapons? Our people cannot be challenged by such agent regimes nor the imperialist powers.

Editor Views Mubarak as 'Intelligence Officer'

LD190927 Tripoli JANA in English 0818 GMT 19 Nov 84

["JANA's Political Editor Describes Mubarak As Intelligence Officer" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 26, November — 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The president of the Egyptian regime Husni Mubarak issued self-flagellating statements, not as a self-respecting president but as a sly intelligence officer affirming his complicity in the U.S. terrorist plans through giving refuge to the stray dogs which the Libyan people decided to liquidate.

Commenting on Mubarak's despicable role, the commentator added: No doubt, Mubarak's sudden turn into an intelligence officer is a shameful act, as it exposes his new talents in fabricating lies by providing photos of his plan, rather than discussing Egypt's difficult problems and its peoples suffering from food shortages and sickness.

Rather than devoting his efforts to liberating Egypt from Camp David accords of surrender and finding solutions to the basic problems, he flaunted his skills in forging photos and showing interest in the likes of inane stray dogs as Al-Bakkush.

Husni's extreme collaboration has exceeded the level of rudeness and condescension by shamelessly availing himself as an agent to the imperialist countries, and as an artist in fabricating lies against Germany and Libya's plan to assassinate its chancellor and against Saudi Arabian and Pakistan in the same base and low level of conspiracy.

If Mubarak had a small degree of shame and feeling of dignity, he would not have accepted the fluttering of the Israeli flag over his head. Alas, we find the president to have turned into an intelligence officer whose primary aim is forging photos, whipping up conspiracies, improvising lies, practising blackmail, and expressing his opportunistic wishes which deepen his treasonous march of surrender. Verily, his plans have weakened, and he upon whom the foxes urinated was shamed.

Reportage on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit to Malta

Arrives in Valletta

LD171432 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon arrived in Valletta for a visit of several days to Malta. A grand welcome was waiting for the brother leader of the revolution at the airport.

Among those who met him were Prime Minister of Malta Dominic Mintoff and the president of Malta.

Holds Meeting With President

LD180345 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Excerpt] A working meeting was held in Valetta today between the brother leader of the revolution and Barbara Agatha, president of the Republic of Malta. The meeting was attended by Mr Dom Mintoff, prime minister, and by Malta's deputy prime minister.

Delivers Speech to Populace

LD181632 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Huge masses of Maltese people today saluted the brother leader of the revolution. They welcomed him and affirmed their appreciation for the postures of the Great Fatih Revolution in supporting and backing the causes of the freedom of the peoples.

The brother leader of the revolution met these huge masses of the Maltese populace and delivered a speech in which he stressed the depth of historic links and bonds between the two friendly peoples and countries. He affirmed the genuine efforts to achieve peace and security and the prominent role of the Jamahiriyah in this sphere. He praised the deep-rooted bonds between the Libyan Arab and the Maltese peoples. He affirmed their close mutual cooperation in the face of imperialist challenges and plots.

On the 2d day of his visit to Malta, the brother leader of the revolution today paid an inspection visit to the Valetta port and ship-building yard. He was accompanied by the Maltese minister of labor.

Yesterday, the brother leader of the revolution visited a shoe factory, an electricity transformer station and [word indistinct] plant. He was accompanied by the deputy prime minister of Malta.

It is worth mentioning that these plants were completed with joint Jamahiriyah-Maltese capital, and they contribute effectively in backing the Maltese economy and satisfying the needs of the Libyan market. The plants employ large numbers of Maltese workers.

Meets Maltese Prime Minister

LD181836 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] A working meeting was held this afternoon between the brother leader of the revolution and Maltese Prime minister Dom Mintoff. It was attended by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Brother Musa Abu Furaywah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries, and Brother Mubarak ash-Shamikh, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications. On the Maltese side, it was attended by the Deputy Prime minister.

Prime Minister Dom Mintoff this afternoon gave a lunch banquet in honor of the brother leader of the revolution and the delegation accompanying him.

'Totally Committed' to Pullout

AB191415 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Valetta, 19 Nov (AFP) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has declared himself "totally committed" to the agreement on the withdrawal of French and Libyan forces from Chad, during a press conference held at Valetta, Malta, on Monday afternoon.

Questioned about reports concerning the presence of 800 to 1,200 Libyan soldiers in northern Chad, the leader of the Libyan revolution replied: "I cannot tell whether there are still Libyan elements on the way between Chad and Libya or whether they have already arrived in Libya. But I completely reject the reports from an American source and the CIA (concerning the presence of a strong military contingent in the Tibesti region)."

Observing that "it is a problem of logistics," Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added: "I hereby state that Libya will no longer send planes, tanks, or soldiers to Chad. However, it is totally committed to supporting the Transitional National Union Government of that country," he said.

Concerning his talks in Crete with President Francois Mitterrand, Col al-Qadhdhafi state he came to "a perfect understanding" on "all the points under litigation."

He also did not wish to comment on reconnaissance flights made on Sunday by French planes over Chad.

Accuses Reagan of Hostility

AB191431 Paris AFP in French 1357 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Valatta, 19 Nov (AFP) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is a "secret agent in the pay of the CIA," Colonel al-Qadhdhafi told a press conference on Monday afternoon at the end of his 3-day visit to Malta.

Questioned on terrorism charges leveled against him by Cairo, Mr Al-Qadhdhafi said: "I cannot reply to that man called Mubarak, because he showed in a glaring manner and with no possible doubt that he was a secret agent in the pay of the CIA and thus proving that he is not a head of state." "I will thus not waste my time on this point," he added.

The leader of the Libyan revolution also strongly accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan of leading a hostile policy toward Libya "which will only lead the United States into disaster and war." "I am sure that this man is really mad," he repeated after having earlier made this accusation.

Jabir Meets Hungarian Defense Minister

LD161758 Tripoli JANA in English 1541 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A working meeting took place this morning between Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and General Lajos Czinege, minister of defence and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the Hungarian People's Republic.

The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying the Hungarian minister General Czinege and his delegations arrived in Tripoli, yesterday, on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Brigadier Abu Bakr Ynis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and a number of Libyan officers welcomed the Hungarian defence minister and the delegation accompanying him at Tripoli international airport.

Cooperation Agreement Minutes Signed

LD182236 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] A meeting was held this evening between Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Arab Libyan Armed Forces, and Army General Lajos Czinege, member of the Hungarian Communist Party Central Committee and Hungarian defense minister.

During this meeting, they signed the minutes of a agreement on mutual cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Hungary.

JANA on U.S. Policy, Statements on Chad

LD161015 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 16 Nov 84

["Facts Versus American Claims on Chad" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Safar, 16 Nov, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Once more the American Government used all its malicious propaganda and false information machines to [word indistinct] the face of the process of returning peace and stability to Chad as it always did each time this government was unable to take advantage of any international developments for itself and its monopolist accomplices, even if that was on the account of those concerned in these circumstances.

In this case, it was the Chadian peoples, Jamahiriyah's neighbour, which for more than 20 years had suffered from civil war. In a desperate attempt and pathetic efforts, the U.S. foreign ministry once more raised doubts on the credibility of the Libyan-French recent agreement signed in Tripoli on 17th September which came as a truthful desire to secure practical and logical conditions for a national reconciliation in Chad. It is no secret that the U.S. Government does not care, in any case, about the sufferings of the Chadian people, politically or economically.

It publicly resisted the call for the return of stability to Chad. Events in this country indicate that the ruling circles in Washington have always tried to internationalize any internal crisis and fabricate excuses to interfere, or even invade, using military force, so it continually acts to escalate the internal conflict in Chad and convert it to a dangerous spot in world tension.

Under this scope the statements made by the U.S. foreign ministry spokesman Comes, and which were denied on the same day in the U.N. General Assembly by the deputy French foreign minister, Jean Michael Bailie, who said that, his country does not take into consideration (guesses) in what concerns the withdrawal of the Libyan support elements to the Chadian National Unity Government, but it takes confirmations and solid proofs.

The U.S. Government, which uses all its diabolic means to spread its influence to enable its monopolist firms and their agents to manipulate situations and profit from them, naturally does not feel any comfort to the elimination of all tension spots in the world, especially if that was achieved by the efforts of a country such as Jamahiriyah which stands firmly and steadily in the face of the American plots in a very vital area, where the United States wants to spread its influence and make its move in its orbit, this is being the Arab region and Africa.

The Chadian people sense, through their struggle experience and their past and current history, the nature of the relations with Libya which binds it by the long mutual struggle against the foreign colonialist.

Also it realises the fact behind the crying of the American colonialist and the crocodile tears it sheds today shamelessly.

MOROCCO

King Addresses Parliament on Withdrawal From OAU

LD170022 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[King Hassan's 16 November address to Parliament read by his adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon on the prophet of god, on his family.

Gentlemen, you know that as far as the Saharan question is concerned, the lines we follow have all been characterized in respect to legitimacy and legality. We claimed our Western Sahara in a peaceful and patient way. We never deviated from conciliation and what is best. We addressed the friendly state in the language of agreement and dialogue. And, when the desired result was not achieved in this manner, our issue was submitted at the initiative of the United Nations to the international court, the supreme international justice body. This court voiced its opinion on the question. We used this opinion which was made, as you know, in favor of our country. We undertook our peaceful green march by which we contacted our kinfolk and grandchildren; we retrieved a dear right of ours. The Spanish state then agreed to conclude a treaty with us thereby turning the Sahara over to us. We accepted the United Nations as a witness to this agreement.

However, enemies of our territorial integrity did not like this. They were bitter to see Morocco realize a goal it wanted for so long. They schemed against Morocco, planting obstacles in its way and creating difficulties. They fought us and are still fighting us with heavy weapons, with sophisticated hardware. They [words indistinct] disregard for various international arenas and organizations. We faced perfidy and aggression, and we entered this fierce battle with the traditional courage and heroism of our people; with far- sightedness and wisdom, a tribute on our part to the principles in which we believe and the civilization values to which we adhere and honor.

Out of our desire to halt the conflict, to stop bloodshed, to preserve the destinies of the peoples of our organization, we repeatedly made efforts and continued endeavors; we made concessions and offered sacrifices; more than once, we furnished evidence of our honorable intentions and preparedness to make peace. We continued on this path until the proposal to seek arbitration in a referendum. Our enemies, however, were afraid of the referendum and of its outcome. They resorted to futile and collapsing pretexts, to false and groundless excuses. They continued their scheming and deception, insisting on their perfidy and aggression.

The plan of trickery and deception succeeded, and the opponents won over a number of African states. They violated the charter of the OAU, to upset legitimacy and legality and to squeeze the so-called Saharan republic into the fold of the organization. By this open, blatant violation the organization has [words indistinct] and deviated from the straight path, and took the wrong road.

In the face of this deviation, and this disastrous, deteriorating situation that threatens the organization with obliteration and annihilation, we could not affiliate our country with an organization that lacks the pillars of legitimacy, the essential element of any self-respecting organization. The OUA by accepting an illusory entity, and committing the crime of violating its proper charter and its own legality, entered the era of adventure and recklessness, an era full of dangers of unknown extent or limits.

Morocco withdrew from the OAU with its head held high and with dignity because it refused to accept anything but legality, and adherence to ethics and morals without which there can be no correct international dealings. Morocco should be proud that a number of countries with great prestige and reputation appreciate its position and the causes of this position. We are convinced that the OAU will return to seriousness, rightness and to the line of conciliation and wisdom. Then it will find us as we were before — a member working sincerely for the advance of our continent and the happness of its peoples. Until this time comes and things return to normal, we will continue our concern on all levels, for our continent's issue; we will work for its happiness and prosperity.

Respectable representatives, this is our position after an imaginary entity was squeezed into the OAU and these were our reasons and causes. We wanted to inform you about them in this speech because of our high regard for your assembly and our consideration for your interest in your country's internal and external affairs.

Prime Minister Receives Soviet Economics Official

LD170634 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Today, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani received at his office Mr Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is currently visiting Morocco. The meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust, touched upon the bilateral relations between the two countries, especially in the economic and financial fields, and on the ways to consolidate the cooperation between Morocco and the Soviet Union.

SUDAN

UAE Paper on President's Statements on Israel

GF161530 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Nov 84 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Coexistence or Capitulation"]

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri recently made copious statements which call for settling the Arab-Zionist dispute by any means. On one occasion he called for opening Arab markets in the Jewish capital, "because the Jews love money, and once the Arab markets are opened, they will forget about the war." On another occasion he called for coexistence with "Israel" and for "not fearing it." Before that he talked about the Arab Sudan or the "Arabized" Sudan.

We do not know why the Sudanese president makes such statements or "pieces of advice." He undoubtedly knows about the ins and the outs of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Fraternal Sudan was among the foremost sides who participated in warding off the Zionist aggression. Khartoum was the Arab capital that hosted the most important Arab summits when the three nos were made — such nos proclaimed rejection of "coexistence" with "Israel" according to the conditions of "Israel" and of the United States. These nos were the first cornerstone in the structure of steadfastness that established the bases for the great crossover in the October war of 1973.

Frankly speaking, we do not know how an Arab leader talks about "coexistence" with the Zionist enemy at a time it occupies all of the Arab territories in Palestine and Arab territories in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. We truly do not know how to coexist with an armed usurper who daily proclaims that the only possible settlement is the one that ensures its superiority, hegemony, and influence over all of the Arab homeland and even beyond the Arab homeland. How can we coexist with an enemy that regards its air space as if it extended from the borders of India to the borders of Morocco and regards a mere attempt by an Islamic country — not an Arab country — to possess the nuclear technology as being a direct threat that jeopardizes it.

How can we comprehend the call for coexistence with "Israel" this very time when our kinfolk in occupied southern Lebanon, in the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip, in the Galilee and in the Golan are subjected to the ugliest forms of tortue, execution, and oppression? We wish that the Sudanese president had asked the Egyptian brothers — since he visits them frequently — on their experience with regard to normalization and relations with "Israel" — where the normalization is the minimum limit of coexistence. "Israel" maintained the region known as Taba, launched an aggression against Lebanon, multiplied the number of settlements in the occupied territories and paved the way for normalization through the strafing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor. It is still armed with the most sophisticated products from U.S. factories. After all this clear experience, how come we hear calls for coexistence with an enemy who is more racist than Nazism itself. Are these calls for coexistence or for accepting the de facto situation, that is, "capitulation"?!

Soviet Delegation Meets SSU Leader

EA160341 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Umar, secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, this morning met in his office with a Soviet friendship delegation, currently visiting the country. His excellency welcomed the visiting delegation and outlined Sudan's internal and external policy. He explained that Sudan's policy aims at consolidating peace, harmony, and cooperation among the peoples of the world and that Sudan's revolution, which called for socialism, democracy, and the building of a modern Sudan, has faced many challenges like all revolutions in the world. But the revolution, through its credibility and the rallying of the people around it and around the leader, has managed to overcome those challenges.

His excellency added that the Sudanese people are building their homeland in keeping with their traditions and heritage and that they strive to be active members of the international community. They have always endeavored to respect international and regional charters, to achieve a just peace in the world, and to confirm the Palestinian people's right to restore their legitimate rights. They strongly condemn the policy of minority governments in Namibia and South Africa, he said.

The secretary general expressed his hope that Soviet-Sudanese relations will be able to return to normal in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The leader of the delegation praised Sudan's wise policy based on the consolidation of peace among peoples.

WESTERN SAHARA

Communique Reports Moroccan Troop Losses

LD171341 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] A statement issued this morning by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] Ministry of Information and Culture reports that forces of the Saharan People's Liberation Army implemented another series of attacks against numerous positions of the Moroccan royalist forces in the Saharan territories between 5-13 November. The statement points out that the royalist forces sufferred heavy losses in lives and equipment: 62 royalist soldiers were injured; 25 were killed, and a large amount of military equipment was destroyed.

Saharan Rebels Report 90 Moroccan Troops Killed

LD182301 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The SPLA, the Saharan People's Liberation Army, continues its Great Maghreb offensive. It extends across a front from Zmoul Miran to Tashkat. Thus the Moroccan positions were bombarded from 7 to 12 November in several areas. The toll is 90 Moroccan soldiers killed and several installations and equipment destroyed.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Asks for Increased Drought Aid

EA162052 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today called on the international community to increase the amount of aid on the basis of a long-term plan in the effort to administer day-to-day assistance to our compatriots hit by the effects of natural drought. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, made the call in reply to local and foreign journalists' questions on our country's current situation, the problems faced by the organization during his tenure as chairman since the 19th OAU summit, the efforts made to solve them, and other international issues.

In his statement, our comrade revolutionary leader explained the causes and problems resulting from Ethiopia's drought and, in particular, the adverse climatic changes evident over the past 2 years. He explained the measures taken and being taken by the revolutionary government and the broad masses of Ethiopia and the aid being given by the international community.

Our comrade revolutionary leader expressed his thanks for the aid given by the international community, especially for the drought problem, and asked the international community to continue its humane support on a larger scale, since the volume of aid would not be enough to cope with the future scale of the problem.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam gave an exhaustive statement on the problems faced by the organization and the efforts exerted during his tenure as chairman of the 19th OAU summit.

Mengistu Denies Wasting Money During Famine

AB171357 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Nov 17 (AFP) — Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam has denied allegations that his government wasted millions of dollars on celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the country's revolution at a time when thousands of its citizens were dying of famine.

At a press conference, he also asserted that there was a conspiracy to use international famine relief as a lever to force his Marxist government to negotiate with separatist rebels.

Charges that the authorities had squandered up to 500 million birr (about 250 million dollars) to fete guests and decorate Addis Ababa had appeared in the Western press in the wake of the celebrations earlier this year. The event coincided with a devastating famine afflicting more than six million Ethiopians.

Lt Col Mengistu said the single most costly venture had been the construction of a congress hall for Ethiopia's first legal political party which had cost his government 19 million birr. Much of the decor, including a monument to the unknown soldier, had been the gift of North Korea, he added.

Speaking yesterday at his first news conference in nearly two years, the Ethiopian leader thanked the international community for relief aid sent his country. But he noted that the bulk of Western aid so far had been pledged but not delivered, and that Ethiopia needed far more than had been committed.

Lt Col Mengistu spoke of a "conspiracy" that he said was aimed at using famine aid to force the government to negotiate with secessionist rebels in Northern Tigrai and Eritrea Provinces. He singled out no one for criticism.

The British War on Want organization last month mandated former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, named in Bonn to head a non-government committee on aid, to ensure that European relief assistance to Ethiopia got through rebel-controlled territory.

Lt Col Mengistu said manoeuvres directed at using food aid to open dialogue between the rebels and the Ethiopian Government constituted an unacceptable interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs. His government would never negotiate with "terrorists," he declared.

Asked whether food aid by the United States, at loggerheads with Addis Ababa since Ethiopia's Marxist revolution in 1974, would help ease relations, he replied that food aid had never been the cause of the differences between the two countries.

Washington's quarrel with Ethiopia had been political and ideological, he said, but added that any "positive" measures were likely to improve and not impede relations. The United States allocated a further 37.5 million dollars to victims of the Ethiopian famine yesterday, bringing U.S. aid to Ethiopia since October 1 to 97.5 million dollars.

In answer to a question on whether Italy, historically linked to both Ethiopia and Somalia, could serve as a peacemaker in helping the Horn of Africa neighbours resolve their differences, Lt Col Mengistu said the conflict between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu was not of Ethiopia's making. Somalia wanted to carve up the territories of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti in pursuit of its dream of a "Greater Somalia," he said. He said this was in contravention of the accepted principle in Africa of the inviolability of frontiers inherited from the colonial era. But the Ethiopian leader said any moves by "our friend Italy" to persuade Somalia to see reason could not be viewed with disfavour.

Politburo Member Inspects Drought Camps

EA161844 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] The high-level delegation led by Comrade Legese Asfaw, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the resettlement program coordinating sector, yesterday inspected the aid being administered to drought victims at the Bati and Harbu shelter camps in Kalo District and issued relevant directives.

During its visit to the Bati shelter camp, the group heard reports on the effects of the drought by Comrade Salah ad-Din Abdullah, Kalo WPE first secretary, and Comrade Anteneh Asfaw, Bati WPE first secretary, who said the drought had caused heavy damage to people and livestock in Aklo and that it had worsened particularly over the past 3 years.

After inspecting the camps' infrastructure and its food and medical sections, Comrade Legese directed the local comrades to double their working hours in order to save the lives of our compatriots.

In a directive to those inmates of the shelter camp who had been heavily affected by the drought problem and had agreed to resettle in other regions, Comrade Legese said that in spite of great efforts made in the past years to save the ives of our compatriots, the drought had now become worse and that all those who were willing to accept resettlement to help themselves and their country should be prepared to move, as the WPE and the revolutionary government were making great efforts to help them resettle.

The team paid a similar visit to the shelter camp at Warbu.

Meanwhile, Comrade Legese Asfaw has said that all citizens who genuinely stand for development and prosperity must make great contributions towards all the work being done to find a permanent solution to the drought problem in our country. Comrade Legese Asfaw, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary and chairman of the shelter coordinating sector under the national committee to contain natural disasters, issued this directive after hearing a report on the work of the eight subcommittees established in Tigrai region to contain the drought problem.

Comrade Legese said that during their visit to the shelter camps at Mekele, Adwa, Maychew, and Axum in Tigrai region, in accordance with the drought work program laid down by the Politburo, his team had held talks with the victims sheltered in them, including those who had opted for resettlement. He said they had noted the seriousness of the drought and added that the WPE and the revolutionary government were making every effort to bring nature under control on the one hand and on the other to eliminate treaacherous secessionists so as to promote development work.

He said that accordingly every citizen who wished for Ethiopia's growth and prosperity must double his working hours without complaining of fatigue so as to save the lives of our compatriots and prepare volunteers for resettlement. He directed that particular attention be paid to the expansion and cleanliness of shelter camps so as to overcome the drought problems in the region and ensure that medical aid reached all children and that other daily relief aid was properly distributed. He issued a strong directive on the immediate implementation of resettlement registration, as those involved would soon be leaving for the destinations appointed for them.

Also present during the meeting, which was held at the WPE regional assembly hall, were comrades: Shewan Dagne Belete, WPE Cental Committee Politburo alternate member and representative for the daily relief coordination sector; Feleke Gedle Giorgis, WPE Central Committee member and minister of information and representative of the Agitprop Committee; Mulgeta Hagos, WPE Central Committee member and Tigrai WPE first secretary; Tiruwork Wakeyo, WPE Central Committee member; Fekadu Wakene, administrator general of the region; and government and mass organizatin representatives.

Mengistu Meets Nyerere, DPRK's Kim Yong-nam

EA172308 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has had talks with Tanzanian leader President Nyerere, the current OAU chairman. The discussion between our comrade revolutionary leader and President Nyerere took place at Bole International Airport prior to President Nyerere's return home at the end of the OAU summit.

President Nyerere reiterated his pleasure at the successful outcome of the 20th OAU summit and noted that this had been due to the great efforts made by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam on behalf of Africa in his capacity as the last OAU chairman. The two leaders also discussed other matters.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today discussed with Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the Workers Party, vice-premier and foreign minister of the DPRK, the relations and friendship between the two countries. Present during this ceremony were: Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre Kidane, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the WPE Central Control Committee; Comrade Fasika Sidelil, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee alternate Politburo member and secretary; Comrade Tesfaye Wolde Selassie, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee alternate Politburo member and minister of public and national security; and Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs.

Japan's Foreign Minister Arrives in Addis Ababa

EA182332 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] A Japanese delegation led by Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe arrived today in Addis Ababa. The delegation will inspect drought-affected areas in Ethiopia and hold discussions on the aid required by Ethiopia. Foreign Minister Abe and his delegation was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee member and foreign minister, and Comrade Berhanu Deresa, deputy commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission [RRC]

During the ceremony, Mr Abe presented to Comrade Berhanu Deresa, RRC deputy commissioner, samples of tinned food which the Japanese Government intends to donate to drought-affected compatriots in Ethiopia. In a speech to the ceremony to mark the handing-over of the sample food, Mr Abe stated that the objective of his tour is to inspect drought-affected areas and hold consultations with the concerned officials.

In a speech after receiving the sample food, Comrade Berhanu Deresa pointed out that the drought prevailing in Ethiopia has been causing great and continuous problems, and noted that the international community's assistance is needed to contain them. During its stay, the delegation headed by Shintaro Abe will inspect the drought situation and relief distribution stations in Mekele [capital of Tigrai region].

Delegation Departs for Romanian Congress

LD172154 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] A two-man delegation led by Comrade Ashagre Yigletu left for Bucharest today to attend the 13th congress of the Romanian Communist Party, opening next Monday. The team, apart from participating in the congress representing the Workers Party of the Ethiopian Central Committee, will hold an exhaustive exchange of views and opinions on relations between the WPE and the communist party with high ranking officials. The delegate team also indicated that it will hold talks with representatives of communist and workers parties attending the congress.

The delegation led by Comrade Ashagre was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Nadew Zekarias, WPE Central Committee member.

KENYA

Minister Signs Trade Agreement With Zimbabwe

EA171806 Nairobi KNA in English 1815 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Harare, November 16 (KNA) — Kenya and Zimbabwe have today entered a bilateral trade agreement which is expected to boost trade between the two countries. The agreement was signed in Harare this afternoon by Kenya's minister for commerce and industry, Mr Andrew Omanga, and his Zimbabwean counterpart, Mr Richard Hove.

SOMALIA

SNM Claims 5 Government Troops Killed in Ambush

EA181759 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia
1800 GMT 17 Nov

[Text] The gallant fighters of the Somali National Movement, [SNM], wing of the Somali opposition forces say that a senior officer and 11 soldiers were wounded and 5 others killed among the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime after their vehicle was blown up by a landmine planted by the SNM fighters. The vehicle was passing along the road leading to (Haji Salih) village, in Gobolka Togdhere [north-east of Hargeysa], in the middle of this week when it was blown up by a landmine. The ambush by the SNM fighters completely gutted the vehicle belonging to the 32d Brigade of the troops still loyal to dictator General Barre stationed at Degmada Ood Weyne [District] in Gobolka Togdheer.

TANZANIA

'Permanent' Border Agreement Signed With Burundi

EA161837 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1900 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] Kigoma Tanzania and Burundi have signed a bilateral border agreement. The agreement was signed yesterday in Bujumbura, Burundi. The minister for lands, natural resources, and tourism, Ndugu Paul Bomani, signed on behalf of Tanzania, while the Burundi minister of interior, Ndugu Charles Kazatsa, signed on behalf of his government. Speaking to reporters in Kigoma, Ndugu Bomani said that a map showing the border between the two countries had been drawn and that the two countries decided that the agreement should be a permanent one. Each country agreed to protect border marks and citizens had been asked to make certain that the marks were not removed from where they had been fixed. Concerning the borders between Tanzania and her other neighbors, Ndugu Bomani said that Tanzania was currently making efforts to end the frequent clashes with certain neighboring countries through negotiations.

The minister said that Burundi had also expressed the wish to cooperate in the fields of trade, transport, natural resources, and [word indistinct].

Government To Revise Preventive Detention Act

EA162339 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Arusha — The prime minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, said today that the government intends to revise the preventive detention act introduced soon after independence in 1962. Ndugu Salim said this in Arusha today when he was opening a 2-day conference of Amnesty International for the Africa region. He said the government envisages that when some aspects of the act are changed, a person detained for reasons of national security can have the right to know why he has been detained. He added that the detained person will also have the right to challenge freely the legality of his detention in the high court, to have his name published in the government gazette, and to have his case reviewed periodically. The prime minister said the objective is to reach a point in the development of the nation when such legislation, though predominant in many countries, is no longer necessary in our country.

Meanwhile Tanzania has been praised by Amnesty International for the steps it is taking towards the protection of human rights and has described it as a model in Africa. The secretary general of the Amnesty International, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, expressed the praise in Arusha at the opening of the human rights conference.

CAMEROON

President Biya Interviewed by Journalists

LD180238 Paris International Service in French
1500 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Interview with President Paul Biya of Cameroon, produced by Cameroon Radio; presenter not identified; panel of journalists asking questions as follows: (Julia Ficatie) of *LA CROIX*, (Veronique Morus) of *LE MONDE*, (Henri Bandolo) of *CAMEROON TRIBUNE*, (Paul Cambon) of *LES ECHOS*, (Daniel Flamand) of Media France-Intercontinents, (Jean-Paul Fleury) of TFI, (Francois Auter) of *LE FIGARO*, Yves Loiseau of France International, and (Joseph Marsamdi) of Cameroon Radio; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] The first question of this conversation will be political, a question which, of course, we are all asking ourselves here: What is Cameroon like a little more than 7 months after the tragic events of 6th April? What after-effects is it suffering?

[Answer] As you have talked about the putsch of 6th April 1984, I should like to talk to you about that tragic event. After I acceded to the presidency, I was able to develop a number of options in the country — social justice, national integration, a policy of rigor in the management of national heritage, moralization, competence, efficiency. I particularly insisted on starting the preeminence of the state in relation with the party.

Basically, the essential reason for the putsch was the movement of nostalgics who had lost, or who feared they would lose their privileges and who were desperately trying to hang on to them. This affair was not a quarrel between people. It was a matter of political options: Who's in charge in Cameroon? Is it the party, or is it the president of the republic. The majority of the Cameroonian people disapproved of these adventurers who tried to destabilize our institutions. As for the Army, it did its duty.

Later, as you know, I requested that the mutineers appear in court. One thousand, two hundred and five people were questioned and 491 were tried, of which 232 were released, 295 imprisoned, and 51 condemend to death. [sentence indistinct] There are still some cases pending. I must also say that on the 22d of this month, a last contingent of 52 people will appear in the courts.

[Question] Amnesty International said that there had been summary executions without trial. What is your reply to these accusations from Amnesty International? Today, you are giving us figures, but your public image as a moderate president suffered abroad with this business of the executions, the secret of which was well kept in Cameroon.

[Answer] I have just given you figures which express the truth. I have rejected accusations of Amnesty International because they are not based on any kind of reality. There were no secret executions. I have just given the concrete, authentic results of what happened.

[Question] Mr President, would you authorize an in-depth enquiry by Amnesty International in Cameroon on this question?

[Answer] I don't think so. There is no point.

[Question] Mr President, not once in what you have been saying have you said the name of President Ahidjo. You have said "my predecessor," "the people," "the nostalgics." Is the name taboo? Last week *LE POINT*, the weekly magazine, which you know, said that you had met President Ahidjo, a meeting you denied in this morning's *CAMEROON TRIBUNE*. I should like to hear you deny or confirm this meeting with President Ahidjo.

[Answer] First of all, the name of my predecessor, the name Ahidjo, is not a taboo name — see? I have said it; I have said it. On the subject of the article in *LE POINT*, this is an example of extremely negative, slanted news. Some of it can cause considerable harm to a country like Cameroon. I must say that the responsibility of journalists is great in this kind of thing. Here is a country whose stability you have underlined, which has been through a grave crisis, and a journalist — I don't know where he got his information — announces that I have met the former president. This is completely untrue.

[Question] Mr President, on the subject of the sedition you mentioned before, another magazine, *AFRIQUE-ASIE* as it happens, reported that there had probably been collusion between President Bongo of Gaboon, King Hassan II, and President Ahidjo, your predecessor.

[Answer] I have no proof of such collusion.

[Question] Mr President, it has been said abroad that you are a prisoner of the Army to some extent, and that, in fact, the real power in Cameroon at the moment is held by the Army?

[Answer] This is a mistake. The Army, as I said earlier, has done its duty. In Cameroon, now as well as before the putsch, civilian power is still preeminent over military authority. The Army does what the civilian power asks it to do. Also, the president of the republic is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

[Question] In September 1983, you were applauded when you announced a more democratic opening up of the only party the Cameroon National Union. Is this still on the agenda, and what are your plans? Finally, are you not afraid that some people will try to use to their advantage the nationalist left of the Communist party?

[Answer] On 14 September 1984, when I was elected chairman of the Cameroon National Union, I indeed confirmed an option to increase democratization. What I meant by that was, first of all, to restore a greater freedom of speech within our great national party in order to allow greater freedom of speech to all the national political leanings, so that they could express themselves freely. Well, this option is still valid. For the moment, however, there is no question of authorizing a multi-party system in Cameroon. Our country has over 200 ethnic groups, several official languages, and several religions. To allow a multi-party system today would be to allow, automatically, about 100 parties, which would create chaos and disorder. I should not like to be responsible for that. But, on the other hand, real Cameroonian patriots who want to return home, can always do so. The party structures are going to be democratized. They are being so now. All tendencies can express their opinions in it.

[Question] I should like to hear your reaction, Mr President, on the news that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi met the president of the French Republic on the island of Crete?

[Answer] Col al-Qadhdhafi and the president of the French Republic lead sovereign states. They are free to meet and to make the decisions they consider to be useful. This is the strictest application of their right of sovereignty.

[question] Do you think this kind of meeting will help the development of the situation in Africa?

[Answer] Well, we must first of all know the results of this meeting in order to see if these results are helpful or not.

[Question] A last question Mr President. Next month in Bujumbura, Burundi, the annual conference of heads of state of France and Africa will take place. Up until now, Cameroon, a country which is also English-speaking, has not taken part. do you personally intend to go to Bujumbura this year?

[Answer] Well, sir, our position on this problem is well know. Cameroon, for a number of years now, has not taken part in this conference, for reasons, moreover, which are internal. We are a bilingual country. Also, since this conference has become much larger, we wonder if one can get any real benefit from it. Nevertheless, we are among those who think that concerted action is always good between European and African countries. Also, Cameroon has very good bilateral relations with France and with certain other states which will take part in the Bujumbura conference. For the moment, however, we see no good reason to take part.

CHAD

Habre on Libyan Troops in Northern Chad

JN151842 Khartoum SUNA in English
1740 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Safar 21 /Nov 15 (SUNA) President Hissein Habre of Chad announced that Libyan forces were still occupying northern Chad, breaching their accord on troop withdrawal with France. Habri told a press conference last night [word indistinct] Libyans duped French observers by conducting major movement but actually not leaving Chad. President Habre further warned of a fresh attack by Libyan-backed rebels against pro-government positions.

Communique on Chadian-French Joint Commission

AB150640 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Communique issued at the end of French-Chadian Joint Commission meeting in Ndjamena on 14 November 1984 — read by (Keke Soama), acting director general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation]

[Text] The joint commission met in Ndjamena 13-14 November 1984. The Chadian delegation was led by Korom Hamet, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, while the French delegation was led by Christian Nucci, minister delegate for cooperation and development. This meeting was the first since 1977. This explains the importance both sides accorded to its agenda and its outcome. Furthermore, the great strides that have taken place in Chadian-French cooperation in the past 2 years correctly justify the particular attention the two governments accorded to this session.

Among the most significant results of the commission's meeting, one can note the significant increase in the number of technical assistants that the French Government will place at the disposal of the Chadian Government in the fields of education, training, rural development, and infrastructure. Also, activities embarked upon in recent years to promote rural development, animal breeding and rural water control projects will be continued and strengthened if possible.

Thanks to the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, important projects in the fields of energy, transport, posts and telecommunications, and industry will be implemented with the participation, if necessary, of other financial backers. In the field of cultural cooperation, one can also note considerable expansion, in particular in the learning and writing of the French language as well as in social and cultural activities.

The commission devoted special attention to the problem of training programs in all fields now facing the Chadian Government and to which it is trying to find the most appropriate solutions.

Finally, the meeting examined especially the very serious effects of the drought in Chad. The French side confirmed the increase in its food aid for 1984 and pledged more assistance for 1985. It also confirmed the continuation and expansion of its humanitarian programs, in particular in the health and social welfare sectors. At the end of the meeting, the two sides signed a food aid agreement.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding as attested by its results. The French delegation very much appreciated the welcome accorded it. It expressed its sincere thanks to President El-Hadj Hissein Habre, his government and the Chadian people.

Satisfaction Expressed on Mitterrand Comments

AB162115 Paris AFP in French 1830 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Nov (AFP) — The Chadian Government is glad that President Mitterrand has maintained a firm position on the need for foreign troops to withdraw from Chad, Soumaila Mahamat, Chadian minister of information said today.

Interviewed following President Mitterrand's press conference this morning after his meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in

Crete, Mr Soumaila also expressed delight that the French president "confirmed" that all the (?Libyan troops) have not as yet left northern Chad, thus violating the Franco-Libyan disengagement agreement signed on 16 September 1984.

Finally, Soumaila expressed happiness that President Mitterrand had "reaffirmed his concern to see all foreign troops leaving Chad."

For several weeks now, Chadian leaders have continued to cast doubt over the actual withdrawal of the Libyans from northern Chad. President Hissein Habre said on Wednesday night that France knew that the Libyan forces were still present in the country. He also said [words indistinct]. The Chadian head of state, however, pointed out that despite this "difference," relations with France were "good" and had not suffered any "disturbances."

Observers in Ndjamena note that up until now, the talks between President Mitterrand and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Crete last Thursday have not been the subject of any public criticism either in official circles or in the Chadian press.

In an editorial titled, "France Must Make Libya See Reason," and devoted to that meeting in Crete, the official CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY, ATP, simply wrote on Friday morning, after wondering about the reasons for the French-Libyan talks, that "Chadians hope France (?will make) its Libyan partners effectively respect the spirit" of the accord signed last 16 September.

French Resume Reconnaissance Flights
AB181209 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Nov 18 (AFP) — The French Air Force resumed reconnaissance flights over Chad today as uncertainty continued to surround the intentions of Libyan troops stationed in the north of the country. (The French General Staff in Paris confirmed that two Air Force Jaguars had been sent on a reconnassance mission over Chadian territory).

The French fighters were sighted flying at low altitude over the Chadian capital headed for the rebel-held north, where Libyan troops reportedly remain despite the announced completion November 10 of a mutual Franco-Libyan pullout. Reliable sources in Ndjamena said the French were considering redeploying troops in Chad in light of Libya's failure to honor the withdrawal accord.

(A military communique issued in Paris made no mention of the possibility of sending French soldiers, now stationed in nearby Central African Republic).

The decision to resume French military activities in Chad followed the admission by French President Francois Mitterrand Friday that Libya had left 600-800 soldiers in the country, where they have been backing rebel forces led by former President Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr Mitterrand had met Thursday in Crete with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to discuss the Chad situation. In a press conference Friday, Mr Mitterrand said he had insisted that Tripoli remove all its forces from the country. But he added that the remaining Libyan forces were of a "non-offensive nature" and said intelligence reports had indicated "a continuing movement of withdrawal."

The Ndjamena Government of Hissein Habre has consistently charged that Libya was not honoring the September 16 Franco-Libyan pullout treaty and accused Tripoli of strengthening its presence in key oases in the north. The official CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY (ATP) said yesterday that reports from the north said the Libyans were preparing a new escalation of military actions against the government.

Forces Causing Problems in CAR Border Areas
PM151123 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Nov 84 p 8

[Laurent Zecchini dispatch: "Southern Guerrillas Backed by Insurgents Against Bangui Regime Attack Central African Town"]

[Excerpt] Bangui — The nature of the civil war which has been raging in southern Chad for several months between the Chadian National Armed Forces [FAN] and the numerous groups of rebel commandos (Codos) has changed. Indeed, for the first time the guerrillas have taken the fighting over the Chadian border into CAR territory. In the night of Friday 9 to Saturday 10 November, the town of Markounda was attacked by a group of armed elements who had crossed the border and was occupied for several hours. According to the authorities in this district, which is only separated from Chadian territory by the small Nanabarya River, there were "several hundred" attackers. But, according to reliable sources, there were no more than around 50 men.

Four of the town officials, including the police chief, were killed during this attack, which took place at around 0500 hours. A unit of the Central African presidential guard was sent to the scene as soon as the news was known in Bangui. It arrived in Markounda on the Saturday evening and met with no resistance, since the rebels had taken refuge on Chadian territory as soon as they learned that reinforcements were coming north from the capital. Only 20 Central African soldiers were in the town when the attack took place. The four people killed were buried in Bangui on Monday morning.

Several Central African towns in the border area have a asked for security forces to be sent. It is in this region that Chadian refugees fleeing the civil war have settled en masse in the past 2 months.

This incident is particularly worrying for the Central African authorities since this incursion into their territory seems to have been carried out jointly by Chadian rebels and opponents of the Bangui military regime. According to a reliable unofficial source, the attack was made easier by the fact that some assailants infiltrated the Chadian refugees. According to this same source they were, on the one hand, commandos from the Moyen Chari (the "Red Codos," until recently commanded by Colonel Alphonse Kotiga) and, on the other, a group of Central Africans claiming to be followers of French Generals Bozize and Alphonse

M'baikoua, respectively former ministers of information and justice in President Kolingba's government.

These two officers were directly involved in the attempted coup of 3 March 1982 staged by supporters of Ange Patasse, then leader of the opposition and leader of the Central African People's Libertion Movement. According to this same source, the armed supporters of the two generals who have taken refuge in Chad number around 400.

This concerted action could be a resurgence of the old demand by a section of the population of southern Chad and the northern CAR from the same ethnic group for the creation of a "Logone republic." According to the same informants, these rebel elements — Chadian and Central African — are financed and armed by Libya. The attitude of the northern CAR population to Gen M'baikoua is ambiguous since, while disapproving of his action, they are not prepared to facilitate the arrest of the former minister, who was born in this region.

On the other hand, this is not the first time that Chadian troops have crossed the border. Indeed, the FAN have exercised a "right of pursuit" against the "codos" several times in the past few weeks. In addition, it is not rare for Ndjamena government forces to come and obtain supplies in Central African territory, especially near Moyenne-sido, a prefecture of the Ouham Department. In these cases they cross unarmed and with the permission of the local Central African authorities. In addition, according to some reports gathered in Bangui, on 25 October FAN members station on Chadian territory fired on civilians on the other side of the Moyenne-sido border river, killing eight people.

The question of the Chadian troops' right of pursuit into CAR territory is complex: last June a joint Chadian-Central African committee met in Moundou (Western Logone). During that meeting the head of the CAR delegation apparently gave the Chadian side his consent for the FAN to make short incursions into the CAR. However, this agreement was repudiated by an envoy of President Kolingba sent to President Hissein habre. Nonetheless, since then some "blunders" have occurred.

GUNT Arrests Splinter Group Leader

AB171112 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, Nov 17 (AFP) — The leader of a splinter group from the main Chadian opposition movement, GUNT, has been arrested along with a score of civilian and military followers, a spokesman for the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR) said here Friday.

CDR Secretary-General Asheikh Ibn Oumar and his general staff chief, Hashim Daoud, were detained on the orders of GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei when their delegation went to the GUNT-held town of Fada in northern Chad at the beginning of this month, spokesman Thiam Tidjani said. Mr Oumar was defence minister in GUNT (Transitional National Union Government). His CDR was the largest faction and supplied the core of GUNT's military wing. Mr Oumar broke with Mr Goukouni last August and was sacked the same day.

The CDR itself is currently split into three. Mr Oumar's group and the Action and Coordination Committee also formed in August in Paris by Mahamat Senoussi Khatir, while having broken with GUNT, also remain opposed to the Chadian Government in Ndjamena. A third wing, under Rakhis Manani, is still allied with GUNT.

Libyans Order Arrest

AB180849 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Paris, Nov 18 (AFP) — The leader of a splinter group from the main Chadian opposition movement GUNT has been arrested by the Libyan authorities, and not on the orders of GUNT chief Goukouni Oueddei as reviously stated, the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDCR) said in a communique here Saturday.

Its spokesman in Europe, Thiam Tidjani, had reported on Friday the detention of CDR Secretary-General Asheikh Ibn Oumar and his general staff chief, Hashim Daoud, with a score of civilian and military followers, when they went to the GUNT-held town of Fada in northern Chad at the beginning of this month. Mr Goukouni (?was) responsible, the spokesman said.

Mr Oumar was defence minister in GUNT (Transitional National Union Government) until he broke with Mr Goukouni in August and was sacked the same day. The CDR was the largest faction and supplied the core of GUNT's military wing.

Yesterday's CDR communique said Mr Oumar and the others had been "arbitrarily" arrested by the Libyans "after being freed on probation" in Tripoli. It did not say when they were detained. It called for their immediate and unconditional release.

GABON

Bongo: Nyerere's OAU Role 'Dictatorial'

AB180851 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Libreville, Nov 18 (AFP) — Gabon's unsuccessful candidate to be secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity was thwarted by a "dictatorial" decision to halt the voting, Gabonese President Omar Bongo complained when he returned from the OAU summit in Addis Ababa.

He said Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, the New OAU chairman, had "needlessly and unilaterally" suspended the voting when Paul Okumba, Mr Bongo's diplomatic advisers, was ahead of his rival Alioune Bolondin Beye, Mali's foreign minister.

Mr Beye stood down when Mr Okumba was ahead after the sixth round, but the Gabonese candidate still failed to get the required two-thirds endorsement. The national paper *L'UNION*, in an editorial yesterday, said it was deplorable that a lack of cohesion and solidarity among French-speaking members had produced the stalemate and let Peter Onu from English-speaking Nigeria stay on as interim secretary-general.

In Bamako, Mali President Moussa Traore said that Mr Beye had withdrawn from the contest in keeping with an undertaking. But last year, when the Mali candidate was leading, Gabon had refused to give way despite a similar promise, General Traore noted.

ZAIRE

Belgium, Tanzania Linked to Moba Incursion

Envoy Makes Official Protest

NC161918 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Brussels, Nov 16 (AFP) — The Zairean ambassador here Tshibwabwa Ashila Pashi today handed a protest note to Belgian External Relations Minister Leo Tindemans over an alleged Belgian connection to an invasion of Zaire's Shaba Province.

Mr Pashi told the press: "Certain people came from Belgium to prepare the attack. The responsibility of Belgium is not direct, but one can be responsible while not doing anything."

"We expect Belgium to take concrete measures against those who commit acts of terrorism... or threaten from Belgian territory the stability of a friendly country."

Belgijm and Zaire have a running dispute over the Zairean community here, which includes numerous people in opposition to the regime of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mr Pashi said, "I cannot say which movement is responsible for these incidents, but we will have details when the inquiry into the attackers, who have been killed, is over."

A Zaire Government minister went on television in Kinshasa earlier today to report that an armed invasion at Moba in the strategic mineral-rich province, had been repelled leaving more than 100 people dead earlier this week.

Lutete Meets Ambassadors

AB171136 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1040 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 16 Nov (AZAP) — Citizen Umba Di Lutete, member of the MPR Central Committee and commissioner of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation, today received successively in his office the ambassadors of the Belgian Kingdom, and of the Republic of Tanzania, according to a ministry communique given to AZAP.

The two envoys made no statements following their talks, which are believed to be linked with the regrettable incidents that have occured in the Moba zone.

According to the communique, the commissioner of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation took this opportunity to inform the two diplomats about the events which have occured in the Moba zone. He also drew their attention to the responsibility of their respective governments for these grave events. Citizen Umba Di Lutete, according to the communique, condemned such behavior and said that it could lead the MPR founding chairman to take appropriate action, given the presence in Belgium of so-called Zairian dissidents who, as it is known, have always constituted the core of discord between Kinshasa and Brussells.

Moba Situation 'Perfectly Calm'

AB190854 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, from 1400 to 1600 local time, General (Singa Boyenge Mosambaye), member of the Central Committee of the MPR and chief of defense staff of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ], made a brief visit to Kalemie, chief town of the Tanganyika subregion situated 650 km from Lubumbashi, in order to ascertain personally the strict application of the instructions of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, supreme commander of the FAZ, concerning the liberation of the zone of Moba, which was attacked early in the week by insurgents from Tanzania.

The Voice of Zaire — which received this information from its correspondents — indicated that the situation in Moba was perfectly calm as was noted by Gen (Singa) who received a detailed report from the officers responsible for the operations at Moba, a locality situated 360 km from Kalemie. The FAZ chief of defense staff, who expressed satisfaction about the manner in which the instructions of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces have been implemented, issued directives to ensure that such incursions do not take place again in conformity with the desire of the leader Mobutu, who is the guarantor of the unity and integrity of the territory.

BURKINA

Sankara Returns Home, Comments on OAU Summit

AB162200 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, returned to Ouagadougou this afternoon after his visit to the PRC and Ethiopia, more precisely Addis Ababa, where he participated in the 20th summit of the OAU. The summit, which ended yesterday afternoon in Addis Ababa, was marked mainly by the admission of the SDAR into the OAU and discussions on economic issues. These points were raised by the president of Burkina Faso in the interview he granted to reporters on his arrival in Ouagadougou. The first question was: After the admission of the SDAR into the OAU, what do the friends of the Saharan people intend to do to definitively block the way to the Moroccan invaders?

[Begin recording] [Sankara] The OAU summit can be credited with unequivocally admitting the SDAR, since a majority of the OAU member states had already given it their recognition. This confirms the just cause the Polisario Front has been defending.

[Unidentified reporter] One last question: Burkina Faso proposed to the 20th summit that a special closed-door summit should be held to discuss the strategy to be adopted against (?apartheid). How did your colleagues take this proposal and what was the final decision on it?

[Sankara] Yes, in regard to the closed-door summit: Well, I don't know whether it is proper to discuss this question in public, because if our (?friends) are listening to us, then our enemies, too, can take advantage of this and listen to us and thus try to foil our plans and strategy. [end recording]

Canadian Envoy Announces Closure of Embassy

AB161610 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Blaise Compaore, minister delegate at the Presidency in charge of justice and acting head of state, received His Excellency John Bell, Canada's ambassador to our country. After his audience, the Canadian diplomat told reporters that he discussed bilateral relations between Canada and Burkina Faso with Comrade Blaise Compaore.

He also reiterated Ottawa's decision to close down five Canadian diplomatic representations abroad, including that in Burkina.

PRC Provides [illegible] Billion CFA Franc Loan

AB161050 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The visit of the president and his delegation to the PRC resulted in a 10.3-billion CFA franc loan agreement with the PRC. This was disclosed this morning by Minister of Commerce and Supplies Alain Koeffe at a press conference. He also issued a comprehensive report on the stay of the delegation in China.

[Begin Koeffe recording] We have obtained an interest-free loan totaling 35 million yuan under the following conditions: The loan is for 5 years, from 1 January 1985 to 1 January 1990 with a 5-year grace period from 1 January 1990 to 1 January 1995, and the loan will be paid back beginning on 1 January 1995 to the year 2004. This means the loan will be paid back over a period of 10 years. In addition to this, we will have 15 million yuan representing the rest of the loan granted us in 1973 totaling 11 billion CFA. So, all in all, we will have 50 million yuan, 10.3 billion CFA francs.

The money will be allocated to the agricultural sector as a matter of priority. You know that our development strategy is based on agriculture, and that in this sector the major problem is to master water resources. For the country to develop harmoniously, we must place emphasis on agricultural production. This is very important. In this connection, the Chinese side will carry out three dam projects, supply us with light agricultural machinery, assist us in the development of market-gardening, and send experts to assess these projects. [end recording]

GHANA

Delegation to OAU Summit Returns Home

AB171051 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
17 Nov 84

[Text] Ghana's delegation to the OAU summit in Addis Ababa returned home yesterday. The leader of the 11-member delegation, Mr Justice D.F. Annan, member of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), told newsmen on arrival that the conference was a major success, despite the initial fears that the Saharan and Chadian issues might frustrate the opening of the summit. Mr Justice Annan attributed the success of the conference to the collective good sense of Africa and the able chairmanship of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania which, he said, is a good sign for the OAU and for the future of Africa. Mr Justice Annan said Morocco's withdrawal from the OAU summit will complicate the Saharan issue. He, however, hoped the withdrawal will be temporary, because it is expected that with the OAU under the chairmanship of President [illegible] will be done behind the scenes to bring Morocco back to [illegible] union and an end to the conflict in Western Sahara.

On the African economic situation, Mr Justice Annan said the summit devoted much time and attention to the problems of drought and famine. The conference agreed to the establishment of a special fund to help deal with the economic issues. The PNDC member said a special committee has been set up to prepare the necessary documentation on the establishment of the fund for consideration by the council of ministers before the economic summit. Referring to the huge debts facing the continent, Mr Justice Annan said the summit realized the need for a collective strategy in terms of cooperation and holding discussions with the donor countries on how the debts can be settled.

He stressed the need for Africa to impress on the donors that the debt has come about not because Africa is unwilling to pay, but because prevailing economic crises on the continent has made it difficult to settle the debts. On the Chadian issue, the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Assamoah, stressed that the solution lies in uniting the various factions in the conflict.

He said Congo has taken the initiative toward that end. The summit, he added, had no intent of taking any new step until the move by Congo fails.

On South Africa and the Namibian independence, the summit called for greater measures to strengthen the defence and push the liberation struggle to a successful conclusion. Chairman Rawlings was at the airport to welcome the delegation.

GUINEA

OAU Delegation Returns; Conte, Vieira Talk

AB161822 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The Guinean delegation which attended the 20th OAU summit returned home this morning led by Captain Facine Toure, the minister of foreign affairs. Joao Bernardo Vieira, the Guinean-Bissau head of state, was traveling on the same Air Guinea plane.

At the Conakry-Gbessia airport, the head of state and his delegation were welcomed by Captain Lancine Keita, the minister of defense and [passage indistinct].

President Lansana Conte and President Vieira briefly talked about the recent developments in Africa following the last OAU summit.

LIBERIA

Information Minister Receives Israeli Ambassador

AB162015 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Information Minister Carson Karpeh has spoken of the importance of the information exchange between Liberia and Israel.

Accordingly, he said, the Ministry of Information will appreciate any assistance to improve its information machinery. Minister Karpeh was speaking in Monrovia yesterday when Israeli Ambassador to Liberia Gavri'el Gavri'ei called on him. He praised Israel for its assistance to Liberia [words indistinct] relations and he hoped the cordial ties between Liberia and Israel will continue to improve under Ambassador Gavr'eli's tenure.

Ambassador Gavri'eli told Minister Karpeh that severe economic problems presently facing Israel have affected some of that country's programs for Liberia, but the Israeli envoy assured that his mission will help to influence its government to carry out its programs for Liberia.

MALI

Traore Returns From OAU Summit 16 November

AB162132 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The president of the republic returned to Bamako this afternoon from the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. General Moussa Traore was met on arrival by General Amadou Baba Diarra, deputy secretary general of the party, members of government, and members of the diplomatic and consular corps.

NIGERIA

Government Denies Reports of Coup Attempt

NC181924 Paris AFP in English 1853 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] Lagos, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Nigerian military government said today that there was no truth in a report that a planned coup d'etat had been foiled and that 42 army plotters had been executed.

A televised official statement said there had been no insurrection in Nigeria since the armed forces seized power on new year's day and that the report, in the London-based *OBSERVER* newspaper, must be the work of enemies of the country.

The report said the coup had been planned to take place on October 1, when Nigeria held its annual independence day parade.

The statement added that the military government respected the law and that no-one would be executed without trial. It said it would be impossible to carry out such killings without the victims' families protesting.

The broadcast also said the military camp at Ikeja did not have an underground firing range. The *OBSERVER* said the 42 army officers involved in the plot were shot there.

This year, for the first time, the government cancelled the independence day parade for what it said were economic reasons.

Reports Described as 'Baseless'

AB190721 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government has reacted to a report in the foreign press that 42 army officers, including two lieutenant colonels, have been shot by the present administration.

An official statement says that there was no such incident and described the press report as baseless and nonsense. The statement added that the action of the foreign press was a calculated attempt by Nigeria's detractors to bring the present administration to ridicule and disrepute. It says that Nigerians were peace-loving people and that the present military administration believed in the rule of law. The government emphasized that the foreign press report should be disregarded in all its ramifications.

Buhari Returns Home, Speaks to Press on OAU

AB180956 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, returned to Lagos last night after a week-long visit to Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. The head of state spent the first 4 days of the trip in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he joined other African leaders at the 20th summit of the OAU. He went over to Saudi Arabia where he spent 2 days performing the lesser hadj and holding private discussions with King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch.

In the meantime, Gen Buhari said that he would personally endorse the idea to impose sanctions on OAU member nations who have defaulted in their contributions to the organization's coffers. He explained that although the move was not accepted at the last OAU summit, its application was justifiable, because since such African states could pay up their UN dues regularly, there was no moral reason why they should not do so in the case of the OAU.

The head of state, who was addressing journalists in an airborne news conference, also commented on the economic situation in Africa, which is one of the issues that gave African leaders the greatest concern at the summit. He noted that Africa should not continue to blame the Western powers for the bleak economic situation in Africa, adding that African nations should increase their production at home to increase their bargaining power as a way out of the impasse.

On the Western Sahara issue, Gen Buhari corrected the misconception among foreign journalists that Nigeria would take up arms on the side of the Polisario Front. He stated that Nigeria would not fight for any country except under the auspices of the OAU, which meant that such a country must have been recognized by the body.

On Chad, Gen Buhari said that Nigeria would not continue her role over there this time. He noted that in the previous exercise, Nigeria spent as much 60 million naira which have not been repaid.

In answer to a question, the head of state said that Nigeria decided not to vie for the post of secretary general of the OAU because the present administration had discovered in assumption of office that Nigeria was being described as selfish and wanting to grab all positions. Therefore, he explained, he had decided to go all out to erase that impression (?the more so when) Nigeria holds the post of executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA.

Gen Buhari attributed the success of the 20th summit to the anxiety of African heads of state to avoid the unnecessary rhetorics of previous summits and get into grips with the problems facing the continent, instead of allowing political issues to dismember the continent.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent who was in the entourage, Muhammad Okereje, said that Gen Buhari's presence and performance at the summit has reestablished Nigeria in her leadership position in Africa. He adds that it is also remotely contributory to the retention of Dr Peter Onu of Nigeria in the post of interim secretary general of the OAU.

Samuel Doe To Pay 2-Day Visit 19-20 Nov

AB162126 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The Liberian head of state, Commander General Samuel Doe, will on Monday begin a 2-day visit to Nigeria. He will be met on arrival at Murtala Mohamed International Airport by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, and members of the Supreme Military Council. The Liberian leader will later in the day officially open the new Liberian chancery at Victoria Island. At the chancery, General Doe will be received by the minister of defense, Major General Domkat Bali, and the minister of works and housing, Alhaji Ibrahim Yarima Abdullahi.

A program of the visit released at Dodan Barracks says a state dinner will be hosted by the head of state in honor of the visiting Liberian leader at State House, Marina. On Tuesday, Commander General Doe will hold talks with General Buhari at Dodan Barracks before leaving for home.

SENEGAL

Diouf Returns From OAU Summit in Addis Ababa

AB181143 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The head of state is back in Dakar from Addis Ababa where he attended the 20th OAU summit. On arrival at Dakar-Yoff International Airport, President Abdou Diouf was welcomed by members of the government and the diplomatic missions, parliamentarians, and various administrative, military, religious, and Cape Verde traditional authorities.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Returns after OAU Summit

MB160726 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Report from an unidentified Luanda Radio correspondent on the OAU summit in Addis Ababa — live]

[Excerpt] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos has returned home after participating in the 20th OAU summit of heads of state and government, which ends tonight at Africa Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. While in Ethiopia, Comrade President Jose Eudardo dos Santos also took part in a Frontline States meeting, which was not part of the OAU summit. The leaders of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe analyzed the development of the situation in southern Africa and assessed the resolutions adopted by the OAU on the region.

This morning the comrade president also held separate meetings with head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and Malian leader Moussa Traore. Early this afternoon the Angolan president also held talks with chairman of the African Development Bank.

KUP Reports 230 FAPLA, 18 Cubans Killed

MB160946 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 16 Nov (KUP) — More than 230 People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] soldiers and 18 Cubans were killed in the eastern part of Angola by UNITA in combat against the MPLA regime in the last 15 days of October. A news release from UNITA's operation headquarters says that the war has been stepped up in this area in the last days and that during the operations UNITA forces captured large quantities of war materiel.

During this period, UNITA forces assaulted and captured the strongholds of Canda, situated in the municipality of Marimba, and Capaia, situated between Lucapa and Cuilo. UNITA forces killed 130 FAPLA soldiers and 7 Cubans, captured 10 FAPLA soldiers, and freed 4,500 civilians who were imprisioned in the MPLA jails.

Last Monday, UNITA forces clashed with the MPLA 67th Brigade 8 km from Mucussueje for about 2 hours. They forced the enemy soldiers to flee and killed 82 FAPLA soldiers and 11 Cubans. They also destroyed 28 vehicles including 2 BRDM's. Two of the actions occurred in the diamond area and the third was near the Benguela Railroad in the vicinity of the area where the last MPLA offensive failed.

UNITA Forces Capture Towns

MB161838 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 1200 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 16 Nov (KUP) — MPLA's forces suffered large defeats in the first 10 days of November when UNITA forces took by assault the towns of Quitota, 20 km northeast of Pungua Andongo in Malange Province, Liangongo in Moxico Province along the Benguela railway line, Belo Horizonte 58 km from Silva Porto, Bulundua in Huambo Province 7 km from Sambo, Chikuma in Benguela Province. UNITA forces destroyed two convoys of trucks belonging to the Ministry of Security of State, one from Luanda to Moxico and the other of supply, from Banza Kongo to Cuimba.

In these actions MPLA lost 240 FAPLA, 12 Cubans killed, 27 trucks and 5 BDRM destroyed, 7 FAPLA captured and 38 surrendered to UNITA forces. UNITA lost 10 men, 31 injured, and 4 missing.

BOTSWANA

Masire OAU Statement Urges African Cooperation

MB162000 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] Botswana said yesterday at the OAU summit in Addis Ababa that in order to get out of its current crisis, the African continent should rely on its own efforts and resources. Delivering the message on behalf of the president, Dr Quett Masire, the minister of external affairs, Dr Chiepe, said that the current crisis is without doubt the worst that has been experienced by independent Africa.

Botswana endorsed observations made during the debate on economic matters that there was need for African countries to redouble their efforts to mobilize their resources in order to overcome the present crisis. Dr Masire's message said that it was for this reason that the strategy of inter-African cooperation was important, because there is a severe limit to what African states could achieve individually.

The message said it was for this reason that the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, was formed in 1980. The objective of the body, it was explained, was to enable member states to coordinate their development activities and thereby make them more effective. And as the development activities of the member states become effective, this would reduce their dependence on other countries, especially South Africa.

In conclusion, the statement said that Botswana believed that it was essential to examine the policies of African countries and consider the extent to which they had contributed to the economic crisis.

Masire Returns To Gaborone

MB161842 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The president, Dr Quett Masire, arrived in Gaborone this afternoon from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he attended the 20th summit of the OAU. Dr Masire was accompanied to the summit by the minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe;

the private secretary, Mr (Manusiwe) Selepeng; and other senior government officials.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Comments on Discussions at OAU Summit

MB161936 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Excerpts] The OAU Summit ended yesterday. The main issue was the present situation in southern Africa.

Speaking to journalists aboard the airplane that carried him back home, President Samora Machel said the withdrawal of Morocco and the admission of Sahara to the OAU represent a logical process in which we can see the strength of reason and the weakness of oppression.

He said that conditions in Africa today are ripe for change because SDAR has ceased to be a battle horse. The problems are in southern Africa but they had been focused on the Sahara, the Mozambican head of state said. He added that the situation in southern Africa and the economic problems that affect all of us is what unites Africans.

He noted that during the debates on southern Africa there were attempts to talk about Mozambique and the signing of the Nkomati Accord, thus diverting the attention from the liberation movements and the essence of apartheid. He added that the Frontline States and other countries knew where to place the proper emphasis in the debates.

Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Botswana will not stop having economic and trade relations with South Africa, President Samora Machel stressed.

Portuguese Ask Ban of Renamo in Portugal

MB180455 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Portuguese citizens resident in Mozambique have complained about the Portuguese Government's failure to prosecute MNR [Mozambican National Resistance - Renamo] bandit spokesmen in Portugal. The 25 April commission, which represents a broad range of Portuguese citizens in Mozambique, announced in Maputo that it is sending a letter to Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares about the matter.

A member of the commission, Mota Cardoso, told reporters that the letter would express concern over the fact that MNR bandit representatives can operate with impunity in Portugal. Mr Cardoso said the MNR bandits were carrying out acts of indescribable barbarity against defenseless Mozambicans, including women, children, and old people. Foreign technicians had also been murdered by the terrorists.

The commission had noted that the MNR spokesmen in Lisbon were Portuguese citizens. Among their statements were threats to kill Portuguese technicians working in Mozambique. The bandit spokesmen described such technicians as military targets. The Portuguese community in Mozambique, said Mr Cardoso, could not understand why these spokesmen were allowed to get away with this. Legal proceedings should be taken against these bandit representatives.

Mr Cardoso said the Portuguese citizens in Mozambique were shocked that their government should permit the installation of a group of men openly representing the bandits. This, he said, was in contradiction to the Portuguese Government's repeated declarations of solidarity with Mozambique. The bandit spokemen in Portugal have recently been stepping up their propaganda activities but observers in Mozambique note their statements are becoming increasingly divorced from reality. One example is yesterday's claim by the bandits that Maputo was completely isolated and that it was impossible to travel more than 4 kilometers from the capital by rail and road.

60 'Armed Bandits' Captured in Nampula

MB170954 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Sources close to Nampula provincial military command have revealed to our reporting team that 60 armed bandits armed with bows and arrows, spears, and other steel weapons were captured by our troops in Monapo District on 2 November.

These sources also said that in Quixaxe, Mogincual District, another group of 20 bandits armed with machetes, arrows, and spears were also captured by the FPLM a few days later. Also captured were two Mauser weapons.

What is more, following actions carried out in Muecate and Mecuburi districts at the beginning of this month, six armed bandits were killed and their respective weapons, including cartridges and ammunition belts, captured. Our forces also recovered goods stolen from the people as well as a number of head of cattle. The Nampula provincial military command also revealed that 49 people, who had been forced to live with the armed bandits in Imala, Muecate District, were freed on 4 November.

The sources pointed out that during the second half of last month, the increasing actions mounted by our Armed Forces forced the armed bandits in the province to avoid any confrontation with our troops and to use agents such as former chiefs and members of the colonial administrative police to terrorize the people. According to these sources, these elements, armed with machets, spears, and bows and arrows, kill people indiscriminately. Also according to our information, several dozen of these elements have surrendered to our authorities, saying that they were sorry and that they had been deceived by the bandits.

10 Killed in Manica

MB171210 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Our Armed Forces killed eight armed bandits and captured one on 11 November following the destruction of an enemy camp at (Nhacupera), Mossurize District, in Manica Province. This was revealed by a military source in the province.

In the operation, the Mozambique Armed Forces freed 18 peasants who had been forced to live with the criminals. Our forces also captured military equipment and national and foreign currency, and recovered radios, 35 bags of corn, and other goods which had been stolen from the population by the bandits. Furthermore, two armed bandits were killed by our armed forces in Barue District on 12 November. On this occasion, our armed forces also captured two weapons.

In another search-and-pursuit operation against the armed bandits, FPLM forces stationed in Guro District, also in Manica, freed 64 people who had been kidnapped by the criminals.

This is another example showing that our Armed Forces are increasing in strength and are devoted to fighting and pursuing the enemy until armed banditry is totally eliminated in order to enable our people to live and build their future in peace.

Spokesman Denies Maputo Surrounded by Renamo

MB161930 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1916 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 16, SAPA — A spokesman for Mozambique's official news agency, AIM, tonight denied a claim by the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance -Renamo] that its guerrillas had surrounded and isolated the capital of Maputo. Mr Paul Fauvet, a journalist for AIM, said the MNR claim, made in a statement issued in Lisbon today, was "outrageous" and traffic and food supplies were moving into Maputo as normal. "Life hasn't changed here at all," he said. "As far as I am aware, there is no such thing as a state of siege in the city."

A spokesman for Swaziland Railways tonight said there had been no disruption of rail traffic to Maputo today or in the last month. Three trains travel from Mbabane [as received] to Maputo daily. Mr Fauvet said the MNR presence in Mozambique, especially in its former strongholds in Gaza and Inhambane Provinces, was weakening. "I drove from Inhambane to Maputo two weeks ago without being shot at," he said. "However, ambushes are taking place around Maputo and it is not 100 percent safe."

Mr Fauvet said he believed the MNR was concentrating its depleted forces around the capital in order to maximise publicity. "Blowing up a pylon near Maputo attracts a lot more attention than an attack on a rural village," he said. Mr Fauvet said many MNR rebels had recently surrendered or been captured and there were now 5,000 in custody — an indication that the rebel movement was on the defensive.

Renamo Communique Claims Maputo 'Surrounded'

LD170023 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
2330 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] In a communique issued in Lisbon today, Renamo [Mozambican National Resistance] claims that Maputo is totally isolated and surrounded and that there is no road or rail traffic beyond a 4-kilometer radius around the city.

Renamo claims that the war against the Mozambican regime is at its highest point and that government troops are withdrawing and seeking refuge in the major urban centers. They are refusing to fight and withdrawing everywhere, the communique states.

The anti-communist organization's communique further states that the last military column that attempted to leave the capital towards Moamba was attacked on the 5th of this month and seven vehicles were destroyed.

RENAMO Leader Says Escalation Will Force Talks

MB180804 Johannesburg International Service in English
0630 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The secretary general of the RENAMO [Mozambique National Resistance] movement of Mozambique, Mr Evo Fernandes, says the escalation of the civil war in Mozambique will force the government to clarify its position and begin negotiating with RENAMO.

Mr Fernandes has told UPI that RENAMO will not return to the stalled peace talks until the government of President Samora Machel solves its internal divisions and states publicly that it wants a negotiated settlement.

The military offensive that RENAMO had begun at the beginning of the month was reaching its peak, Mr Fernandes said, and he repeated a warning to foreign governments to withdraw their citizens from Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

More Than 17,000 Register for Military Service

MB171202 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] In the compulsory registration campaign of all men between the ages of 17 and 54 in South-West Africa, just more than 17,400 have registered themselves in the Northern Districts of Grootfontein, Tsumeb, Outjo, and Outjiwarongo.

Our Windhoek representative reports that the largest group are the Damaras, who comprise about 25 percent of the total. Of the remainder, 18 percent are Ovambos, 20 percent whites, 10 percent bushmen, 9 percent Hereros, and the rest are (?Rehobothers), coloreds, Kavangos, and Tswana.

The officer commanding the South-West Africa Territory Force, Major General George Meiring, has emphasized that the compulsory registration, which is being extended to other regions, does not mean that all men will necessarily be called up.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Reports Talks With U.S. Resume

MB161204 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The talks between South Africa and the United States on the future of South-West Africa were resumed in Pretoria at 1000 this morning and are expected to continue until late this afternoon.

The South African delegation is being led by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, who is being assisted by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, and the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk. The American delegation is being led by that country's assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker. The delegations are meeting in the State Guest House.

Mr Botha said yesterday that South Africa would convey and explain to Dr Crocker its point of view concerning Angolan proposals with regard to the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola. Dr Crocker is expected to convey South Africa's view to Angola after the meeting.

Talks on Angola End

MB161718 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The talks between South Africa and the United States on the Angolan proposals regarding a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola were concluded in Pretoria this afternoon. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said afterwards that the American Government would now convey South Africa's viewpoint to the Angolan Government as quickly as possible. There were then likely to be further talks between South Africa and the United States, and there was the possibility that trilateral talks, which included Angola, would follow at a later stage. The American team of negotiators was headed by the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Botha Defends Le Grange; DPSC Challenges Figures

MB180631 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] State President P.W. Botha has defended the actions of Law and Order Minister Mr Louis le Grange. He says he stands by the minister in every action he took. Botha says Le Grange does not act on his own but in cooperation with the Cabinet. The state president has also defended the use of Defense Force members in attempts to quell unrest in African townships. He wanted to know whether the government should sit still when, in his words, the South African Communist Party is fomenting unrest and with violence is (?committed) to attain political goals.

Botha also launched a scathing attack on the media, and particularly newspapers, and said it was now time to reconsider the (Steyn) Commission of Inquiry into the media, after what he calls irresponsible reporting. The commission had recommended legislation controlling the media.

But the Detainees' Parents Support Committee [DPSC] has issued a challenge to Law and Order Minister Le Grange. The DPSC has challenged the minister to name all the people detained in South Africa this year. The call was in response to a statement made by Le Grange earlier this week in which he disputed the DPSC'S figures, which stand at more than 1,000.

Le Grange said to his knowledge, only 434 people had been or still are in South African police custody this year. But the DPSC says this is not so as several categories of detainees are not taken into account. It has called on Le Grange to release the official list so that the names can be compared.

Defense Minister Comments on Township Unrest

MB161945 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says the level of unrest in black residential areas in the country is far deeper than what may normally be expected during a period of change.

Speaking at function at Edenvale, at which he was given honorary citizenship of the town, he said that the unrest should be seen as part of a strategy to overthrow the existing order in South Africa. He realized that there were factors in some black areas which had led to dissatisfaction, but these factors were being exploited by agitators and anarchists.

Referring to criticism of the support of the Defense Force in these areas, Gen Malan said that this was a further example of the application of double standards. In the United States, the national guard had often been used in times of unrest, while in Northern Ireland British troops were being used in the fight against terrorism. There was, furthermore, what he termed an interesting silence whenever the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Mugabe, used his defense force to control unrest in his country.

Violence, Arrests Reported in Townships

Police Confirm 2,500 Arrests

MB170522 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The police have confirmed that about 2,500 people have been arrested in black townships in the Vaal Triangle and on the East Rand in the past 4 days, mainly for refusing to pay their rents, for alleged arson, and for possession of dagga [marijuana].

Officials of the Orange-Vaal Development Board, backed by police, have arrested about 2,300 in Sebokeng and Sharpeville. The South African Press Association quotes the chief director of the board, Mr B.C. (Ganz), as having said that the search and arrest operation was carried out in response to complaints from residents that trespassers were using their accommodation and that there had been intimidation.

In Tembisa, 120 people have been arrested on charges of theft, arson, and possession of dagga.

Port Alfred, East Rand Violence

MB171035 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Arrests and township violence have been reported from across the country. In Port Alfred, 13 funeral-goers were injured when police and a stone-throwing crowd of about 2,000 people apparently clashed on the way back from the cemetery yesterday. A police spokesperson says the police used rubber bullets, tearsmoke, and birdshot to control the crowd and has confirmed the number of injuries.

On the East Rand, at Daveyton and Actonville, 95 people were arrested in continuing mass police searches in the townships. All 95 were held for illegal dealing in liquor, but most of the 2,300 Seboken hostel dwellers arrested for nonpayment of rent have paid admission of guilt fines or have been charged. But 233 people are still being held after being arrested in what police call an anti-crime drive which began in the East Rand on Tuesday.

2 Killed, 175 Arrested

MB191012 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0825 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Pretoria, Nov 19, SAPA — Two people were killed and 175 people arrested in incidents of unrest in the country at the weekend, a spokesman for the SA police said from Pretoria today. Police used tearsmoke on Saturday night to disperse about 300 mourners in Vosloorus, south of Johannesburg, who stoned police vehicles after a funeral.

The spokesman said a youth was killed yesterday in Vosloorus, when a group of black youths stoned the house of a councillor. Two policemen guarding the house fired warning shots at the youths, who did not disperse. The policemen then fired birdshot at the group, wounding one person. Reinforcements were called in and rubber bullets were fired at the group. When the youths dispersed, police found the body of a 19-year-old youth.

The spokesman said a continuation of the crime prevention swoop on Saturday resulted in the arrest of 95 people for illicit liquor dealing in Actonville and Daveyton.

In Natal, a black constable of the Natalia Development Board [NDB] was killed, four people were injured and three police vehicles were damaged when residents of the Glebeland Hostel near Umlazi went on the rampage at the weekend. The constable was stoned and later died in King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban.

Violence flared late on Saturday after officials of the NDB arrested 80 women for trespassing in the hostel. NDB officials used teargas and fired a number of shots into the air to disperse about 300 young men who gathered in front of the board offices demanding the release of the women. The SA police were called in when the men began stoning the building. A police spokesman said stones damaged three police vehicles at the scene, but no arrests were made.

Progressive Party Congress Seeks Reforms

Wants End to Conscription

MB180451 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1223 GMT 17 Nov 84

[By Frank Neuhoff]

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 17, SAPA — Progressive Federal Party [PFP] public defence spokesmen were defeated today at the party's Transvaal congress on the issue of military conscription. PFP public representatives at the Sandton congress differed sharply on the issue in a lively and sometimes heated debate.

The role of the SA Defence Force [SADF] in black townships in support of police action recently was a rallying cry for delegates who opposed conscription on the grounds that the SADF was being abused for political ends. The congress overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling on the party to "press for an end to compulsory military conscription."

The resolution noted the stated PFP policy of maintaining a professional rather than a conscripted defence force, the possiblility of extending conscription to "so-called" Coloreds and Indians, and the growing militarization of South African society.

This resolution is identical to resolutions carried by the party's Cape and Natal congresses recently.

The party's spokesman on defence, Mr Philip Myburg, MP, proposed an amendment to the effect that noting the policy of maintaining a highly trained and disciplined nonracial defence force, the party should press for an increase in the size of the permanent force to carry the main burden of defence and for the use of conscripts as a trained reserve only.

This amendment, which was seconded by Mr Brian Goodall, MP for Edenvale, and supported by MPS Mr Harry Schwarz, and Major Ruben Sive, was overwhelmingly defeated.

MPS Mrs Helen Suzman and Dr Alex Boraine and presidents councilor, the Rev Pieter Schoeman, opposed the amendment.

Those in favor of the original motion said the SADF, which should defend the country's sovereign integrity, was being used instead to enforce apartheid.

Mr Myburg said the party would prefer a volunteer professional army but that conscription was necessary so there would be a trained reserve in the event of armed conflict. Mrs Suzman said she would be able to support the amendment only if the term "volunteer" was substituted for the term "conscript." Mr Myburg said he could not accept the substitution.

Dr Boraine said the amendment endorsed conscription, which placed young white men before the dilemma of having to break the law in view of the use of the military in quelling civilian unrest.

Mr Schwarz said law and order had to be maintained if peaceful change was to be achieved and that conscription spread the burden of defending the country and maintaining law and order. "That is the division in this party," he said. It was between those who condemned all violence and those who were not prepared to condemn "radical violence."

In an emotional appeal Mr Schwarz said the Defence Force contributed to a peaceful solution of the country's problems by being strong. The Nkomati Accord was a result of this. The SADF strength also inhibited superpower intervention in southern Africa. "I don't want any young South Africans to die, black or white. The only way to achieve this is to be so strong and so committed to peace that there is no violence."

Referring to the use of conscripts in black townships a delegate said, "I can't put myself on one side of a gun when at the other there is someone who wants nothing but peace."

Mr Peter Nixon, MPC [Member of Provincial Council], said many young whites faced the question whether to leave the country rather than serve in an army of whose actions they could not approve.

Another amendment, to the effect that there should be alternative "civil service" for those conscripts who preferred, it was not approved on the basis that it still supported conscription.

Country Becoming 'Siege Society'

MB180541 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, says South Africa is on the threshold of becoming a siege society in which normal life would be increasingly impossible. In his closing address to the party's Transvaal Congress in Sandton, he said the government was using the Defense Force in such a way that it would tear both South Africa and white South Africa in two. He said the government would ignore at its peril a resolution on military conscription accepted at the congress. The resolution called for an end to compulsory military service.

Party To Accept All Races

MB191024 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 19 Nov 84 p 1

[By Anton Harbor, Political Correspondent]

[Excerpt] The Progressive Federal Party yesterday threw down the gauntlet to the government and made a final decision to open its doors to people of all races in defiance of the Prohibition of Political Interference Act. This takes the PFP in a full circle, reversing a 16-year-old decision to become an all-white party when the act was first promulgated.

It also represents a victory for the left wing of the party and a reversal of the decision of the Transvaal congress of the party only three days ago to stay within the provisions of the act.

Earlier this year, the Cape and Natal PFP congresses had voted to open the doors of the party to all races, but the Transvaal congress went against this. However, the PFP Federal Council, the highest policy-making body of the party outside of a national congress, met yesterday and decided that it could not exclude any member on the grounds of race.

Dr Alex Boraine, chairman of the council, said afterwards that the decision had been overwhelming.

It is understood that only two members of the council voted against the resolution after a lengthy debate. The resolution described the Political Inteference Act as "an inheritance of the Verwoedian ideology of absolute racial segregation."

It noted that the motivation for it no longer existed and it was detrimental to both domestic race relations and South Africa's image abroad. It also noted that the PFP had rejected compulsory racial classification and accepted the principle of voluntary association "as necessary for political co-operation and stability in South Africa."

It called for the immediate repeal of the act and said the PFP would not take into account the colour, race or other ethnic origins of any person who applied for membership.

Dr Boraine said afterwards that the party would not actively recruit black, coloured or Indian members, since such members would be liable to prosecution, but would not reject their membership applications.

"We don't expect any great flock of membership from these communities. We appreciate the problems involved, but we want to be clear that the direction in which South Africa must go is towards a nonracial society with freedom of association.

"There is a deep anxiety within the party that we can't go it alone if we are to solve South Africa's problems. We must be in contact with all race groups," he said.

Buthelezi Says Black Unrest Not 'Constructive'

MB180550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, says the unrest among black people will not lead to constructive ends unless they stop to think about their situation.

Chief Buthelezi, who is also the president of the Inkatha Movement in South Africa, told a meeting near Durban that the unrest in the black townships was making life for ordinary people increasingly difficult. The situation in South Africa could not [as heard] be exploited if the black people continually rushed into headlong clashes among themselves. He said nothing would be gained by attempting to reduce the country to a state of chaos.

Will Address Soweto Rally

MB181027 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Gatsha Buthelezi, has made another plea for black unity. Buthelezi says he will address a rally at Soweto's Jabulani Stadium next weekend in an effort to unite the people of the Transvaal to cope with the widespread violence in the past 2 months. He says he will help them work out ways to (?direct) their anger. Buthelezi says the expressions of black anger now sweeping in the country are not constructive; in fact, he says, the anger is creating hardships for the residents of the townships themselves.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda, Nujoma, Nzo Return From OAU Summit

MB161444 Luanda Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] His Excellency President kaunda has returned from Addis Ababa, where he had gone to attend the 20th summit meeting of the OAU. The president arrived in the same plane with the president of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, and secretary general of the ANC of South Africa, Alfred Nzo.

Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, and Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu, and other senior party and government officials were at the airport to meet the presidential party. President Kaunda has described the just ended OAU summit as a major success.

U.S. Says Reports on Angola Offer 'Inaccurate'

MB190548 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, says press reports about the Angolan proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal are inaccurate. Dr Crocker was speaking in Lusaka after talks with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and the SWAPO leader, Sam Nujoma. According to the reports, Angola had offered to reduce the number of Cuban troops in that country to 10,000 and South Africa was reported to have said more than 4,000 Cubans in Angola would be unacceptable.

Dr Crocker said little was known publicly about the Angolan proposals and as afar as the UNITED States was concerned, matters would remain that way. A special assistant of Dr Crocker, Mr Robert (Cabelli), said the United States continued to view developments in southern Africa with guarded optimism and described the Angolan proposals as an opening bid.

Dr Crocker and his party are visiting Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Kaunda Receives Japanese Foreign Minister

MB180808 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] His excellecny the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has appealed to Japanese businessmen to invest more in Zambia. Speaking when visiting Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Shintaro Abe called on him at State House last night, Dr Kaunda said he was confident that with a little more (?infusion) of Japanese investment combined with abundant natural resources and political stability, Zambia would easily overcome some of her problems. He praised Japan for having been one of the leading countries to come to Zambia's aid in very difficult times through provision of gpants, soft loans, and technology.

Dr Kaunda said all these actions were a pointer to the good relations that exist between Zambia and Japan, adding that Japan was a friend indeed.

Later last night, President Kaunda hosted a dinner at State House for Mr Abe, who arrived in the country on Friday. Mr Abe is expected to leave today for Ethiopia, where he hopes to get firsthand information on the devastating famine that has badly hit that country.

Riot Police Quell ZAPU-ZANU Clash in Harare

MB191016 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Riot police have been used to quell interparty violence in Harare. A police spokesperson has said the police were called in yesterday to stop clashes between supporters of Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF Party and the opposition ZAPU Party. The clashes took place before a ZAPU rally in the capital. Police were unable to confirm a radio report that a man injured with an axe had been taken to hospital following the clashes.

Mugabe Returns To Harare From OAU Summit

MB170649 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, arrived in Harare last night from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he attended the 20th summit of the OAU. Comrade Mugabe, who was accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, was met at the airport by his deputy, Comrade Simon Muzenda, Cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

The 4-day summit, which was attended by all but 2 of the 51 members states, was described by its new chairman, Comrade Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, as successful and constructive. The conference resolved to establish a committee to look into the economic problems facing Africa, which have been compounded by the economic recession and the drought. It also agreed to support liberation movements in southern Africa and condemn the evil system of apartheid in South Africa.

Arrest of Three Whites in Beitbridge Reported

MB170717 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] The ZANU-PF provincial vice chairman for Matabeleland South, Comrade John (Bedzi), has called on all civil servants and residents of Beitbridge who fled the area last week after the murder of Senator Moven Ndlovu to return to the town. Senator Ndlovu was shot dead by two dissidents at his home early in the morning last week. Comrade (Bedzi) warned that the government will be forced to take stern action to combat dissident activities in the area unless the situation improves.

Meanwhile, three whites are among a number of people detained for questioning in connection with the murder of Senator Ndlovu, who was a member of the ZANU-PF Central Committee. All three are members of the Beitbridge Rural Council. Two people died and 184 were injured during disturbances sparked by the murder of Comrade Ndlovu.

ZANU-PF Official Cites 'Intimidation'

MB190635 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The chairman of ZANU-PF for Matabeleland North, Comrade Callistus Ndlovu, says there is widespread intimidation by ZAPU in Matabeleland. Comrade Ndlovu disclosed that he has reports of ZAPU officials, particularly members of parliament, going around in such areas as Tsholotsho and Nkayi commanding the youth to kidnap ZANU officials.

He also commented on the recent local elections in Tsholotsho in which ZAPU won a seat. Comrade Ndlovu said there was intimidation from ZAPU and ZANU-PF had to step down from participation.

Mugabe Warns of New Matabeleland Curfew

MB190624 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans
1230 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] In Harare the Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, has warned that a curfew could possibly be imposed again inMatabeleland. He said he does not believe that the present tense situation in the area will hinder the holding of a free and fair general election next year and plans for the elections are continuing.

Crocker Arrives, Talks with Mugabe Planned

MB190756 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] The American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, is in Harare for talks with government officials on the situation in southern Africa. Dr Crocker, who arrived in Harare from Lusaka yesterday, is expected to hold talks with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, before leaving for Maputo tomorrow.

The assistant secretary of state was in Pretoria last week for consultations with South African officials on the Namibian independence question. He said the Pretoria regime's reaction to Angola's proposals for a Cuban troop withdrawal will be conveyed to Luanda shortly.

Reports say Dr Crocker said in Lusaka yesterday that the new development has emerged from efforts to find a solution to the Namibian question, but declined to elaborate.

Mugabe Warns Against Party Infiltration by Enemies

MB180524 Harare Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has called on ZANU-PF members, particularly the youth, to be vigilant so that the party will not be infiltrated by enemies. Addressing hundreds of party supporters who demonstrated in the capital yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said the party and the government are aware of plots being hatched by enemies against the ruling party.

He said ZAPU is promoting a situation of anarchy so that it will claim that next year's general election was not free and fair if it loses. Comrade Mugabe said minority parties are illegally importing guns into the country in order to assassinate ZANU-PF leaders during the election campaign.

Eight Beitbridge Leaders Arrested After Violence

MB161923 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0844 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Harare, Nov 16, SAPA — Three prominent whites are among eight people detained in the troubled southern border town of Beitbridge following an assasination and rioting there last week.

Lawyers have confirmed that Mr Raymond Roth, a Jewish supermarket owner; Mr Lou Watson, the secretary of the Beitbridge-Mwenezi Rural Council; and Mr Mervin Klukow, the owner of a hotel in Beitbridge, were arrested on Wednesday afternoon. Sources said five black councillors, whose names were not available, were arrested early last week.

Dr Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZAPU announced this week that three senior officials of his party had been arrested on Saturday and were being detained.

No government confirmation of either set of arrests was available. The three whites, all in their 40's and residents of the town for several years, were being held at an unknown location. One of their lawyers flew yesterday by light place to Gwanda, 80 km south of Bulawayo, to see if they were there.

Beitbridge, on the border with South Africa, has been tense since the murder last Friday of Senator Moven Ndlovu. The killing was followed by riots in which women and youth supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party destroyed property belonging to ZAPU, and 184 people were injured.

ZANU-PF Youth Wing Member Dies After ZAPU Attack

MB161845 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] Bulawayo police have confirmed the death of a ZANU-PF member of the youth wing, Comrade (Maufus Moyo), in Hwange hospital yesterday, following an unprovoked attack by ZAPU supporters. The late Comrade Moyo was hit by a stone while ZANU-PF supporters were conducting district elections for the youth and women's wing last weekend. The body of Comrade Moyo will be escorted by police from Hwange to (Lisumi) in Mberengwa, where it will be buried (?tomorrow).

ZANU-PF Supporters March in Support of Firings

MB171252 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Hundreds of ZANU-PF supporters have marched through the streets of Harare today during massive demonstrations in support of the expulsion of two ZAPU officials from the government last Monday.

The marchers were carrying placards condemning the recent killing of ZANU-PF members by dissidents in Matabeleland. Some of the placards called for the establishment of a one-party state. They also called for immediate action against minority parties engaging in counterrevolutionary activities against the people's government.

Cephas Msipa, who was the minister for water resources and development, and John Nkomo, who was the minister of state in the prime minister's office, were dismissed by Comrade Robert Mugabe because their party continues to [word indistinct] dissidents.

Their expulsion followed the murder of a ZANU-PF Central Committee member, Senator Moven Ndlovu, by ZAPU bandits in Beitbridge on the 8th of this month.

House of Assembly Speaker Leaves for Romania

MB190626 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Text] The speaker of the House of Assembly, Comrade Dydimus Mutasa, has left for Romania to attend the 13th congress of the Romanian Communist Party, RCP, which starts in Bucharest tomorrow. Among other things a booklet of directives says the congress is an exceptional event in the political and socioeconomic life of the Socialist Republic of Romania. The pamphlet also says the RCP will call upon every Romanian to uphold realism, clear-sightedness, and a constructive spirit, which are basic landmarks for Romania's foreign policy. It stresses that there should be an intensive development in the agricultural field, coupled with the modernization of industry, and the promotion of [words idnistinct] animal production.

Saudi Prince Arrives to Discuss Cooperation

MB190843 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] A member of Saudi Arabia's royal family, Prince Al-Waleed 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, arrived in Harare yesterday for a 4-day private visit to Zimbabwe. Prince al Sa'ud, who is leading a 7-man delegation, was met at the airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The prince told newsmen that his visit is exploratory and that he will be meeting government ministers and the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe. He said he will be looking at agriculture, industry, and other areas of interest to determine fields of possible cooperation.